ENERGY METER HAVING PROGRAMMABLE FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT

An electronic energy meter which receives a measurement request, and responsive to the measurement request and data stored in data tables in a memory, performs a function and generates output information. The output information is outputted in accordance with a predetermined priority scheme. Each different type of measurement request has a different output priority. An electronic energy meter that permits the addition of new measurements or testing capabilities without requiring factory modifications to effect such functionality changes is also disclosed.

87 Claims, 33 Drawing Sheets


Landis & Gyr, ZMA110m402 –Solid State Precision Meter IEC Class 1.0.


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Fig. 1
Fig. 2

RMS CONVERSION (2-LINE CYCLES)

V_phase (SAMPLE)

TO MICROCONTROLLER 16

51

53

PROGRAMMABLE POTENTIAL INDICATOR THRESHOLD DATA RAN

EEPROM
START TEST

SET THE MEASUREMENT ENGINE RUNNING AT HIGHER PRIORITY FLAG; CLEAR THE BACKGROUND TEST ENABLE FLAG;

TERMINATE MULTI-STEP TESTS. (i.e. ITERATOR=0; ITERATION_STEP=0)

SERVICE VOLTAGE OR CURRENT CHECK?

SERVICE VOLTAGE

GO TO SERVICE VOLTAGE CHECK

SERVICE CURRENT

GO TO SERVICE CURRENT CHECK

QUEUE TEST

STORE THE PASSED MEASUREMENT RECORD NUMBER IN MEASUREMENT_INDEX; STORE CONVERT_ONLY IN DO_CONVERT_ONLY;

PHASE POINTER = PHASE TO_MEASURE;

GO TO CONTINUE TEST

Fig. 8A
Fig. 8B

```
CONTINUE
TEST

SAVE_RO SET?

YES

SAVE_REGISTER=RO

NO

LET MR BE THE MEASUREMENT RECORD IN THE MEASUREMENT RECORD TABLE POINTED TO BY THE MEASUREMENT RECORD INDEX

DO_CONVERT_ONLY SET?

YES

NO

IF THE CHANGE_PHASE FIELD IN THE MR SPECIFIES A PHASE THEN CHANGE THE PHASE_POINTER TO THE SPECIFIED PHASE

VALIDATE THE PHASE_POINTER.

RETURN MEASUREMENT STARTED=FALSE

PHASE_POINTER INVALID OR AUTOPHASE ADVANCE WENT PAST LAST PHASE?

NO

CONVERSION FUNCTION-ITERATE?

YES

CLEAR CONVERT_CAN_RUN FLAG;

RETURN MEASUREMENT STARTED=TRUE

NO

GO TO START THE DSP MEASUREMENT
```
START THE DSP MEASUREMENT

410

LET FR BE THE FUNCTION RECORD IN THE FUNCTION TABLE
INDEXED BY THE FUNCTION INDEX FIELD OF THE MR

420

START THE DSP MEASUREMENT USING THE INFORMATION
CONTAINED IN THE FUNCTION RECORD

430

CLEAR MEASUREMENT_FINISHED FLAG

440

RETURN MEASUREMENT_STARTED=TRUE

---

Fig. 8C
Fig. 80-2

Go to do measurement

Is the next_measurement_index in the MR the end of chain code?

Yes

Is an iteration step running?

Yes

Run conversion function

Decrement iteration; if that was the last iteration then measurement index = iteration step + 1; iteration step = 0; iterator = 0; else measurement index = iteration step;

Set measurement finished flag

Go to do measurement

No

Get next measurement_index and convert_only from next_measurement_index and next_convert_only fields in MR indexed by current value of measurement index;

If phase_pointer indicates this is a multiphase measurement then set phase_pointer to multiphase start code

Go to start next conversion
RUN CONVERSION FUNCTION

DO PRECONVERSION TRANSFERS:
EITHER NONE,
OR \( r_1 = \text{SAVE REGISTER} \), OR
\( \text{SAVE REGISTER} = r_1 \),
OR \( r_0 = \text{SAVE REGISTER AND}
\text{SAVE REGISTER} = 0 \);

CONVERT ONLY OR ITERATE FUNCTION?

READ THE DSP CONVERSION RESULTS AND MULTIPLY THEM BY THE CONSTANTS SELECTED USING THE FACTOR INDICES IN THE FUNCTION RECORD SELECTED FROM THE FUNCTION TABLE USING THE FUNCTION INDEX IN THE MR

RUN PRECONVERSION DATA PROCESSING ON THE SCALED RESULTS

CALL THE CONVERSION FUNCTION SPECIFIED IN THE MR

RETURN
Fig. 9B
**NO FAULT**

- Add time to octmr
- Stop timer
- Clear warning bit
- Clear relay request flag if allowed
- Send event code to event log if allowed

**FAULT**

- Start timer

**TIMEOUT**

- Inc log
- Set warning bit
- Add time to octmr
- Restart timer
- Set PQM warning display bit if allowed
- Set relay request flag if allowed
- Send event code to event log if allowed

**FIG. 10B**

- No fault
- Stop timer

**NO FAULT**

- Add time to octmr
- Start timer
- Clear warning bit
- Clear relay request flag if allowed
- Send event code to event log if allowed

**NO FAULT STOP TIMER**

**NO FAULT**

- Add time to octmr
- Restart timer
START POWER QUALITY MONITOR ENGINE

BACKGROUND ENABLED?
- NO
  - SERVICE LOCKED?
    - NO
      - METER IN TEST MODE?
        - YES
          - MEASUREMENT ENGINE RUNNING AT HIGHER PRIORITY
            - NO
              - BACKGROUND TEST IN PROCESS?
                - YES
                  - BKGN_INDEX=0?
                    - YES
                      - GO TO CONTINUE BACKGROUND TEST
                    - NO
                      - GO TO START BACKGROUND TEST
                - NO
                  - SERVICE CHECKS DISABLED?
                    - NO
                      - SET THE POWER QUALITY MONITOR WARNING FLAG
                    - YES
                      - GO TO START POWER QUALITY MONITOR ENGINE

Fig. 11A
CONTINUE BACKGROUND TEST

IS MEASUREMENT FINISHED?

GET THE MEASUREMENT RESULTS FROM THE MEASUREMENT ENGINE

CALL DO_COMPARISON TO TEST THE MEASUREMENT RESULTS USING THE THRESHOLDS AND COMPARISON TEST SPECIFIED IN BKGNRD_REC.

IS MULTIPHASE TEST TRUE?

ADVANCE PHASE_TO_MEASURE TO THE NEXT PHASE SUPPORTED BY THE LOCKED SERVICE

WAS THAT THE LAST SUPPORTED PHASE?

GO TO CHECK TEST STATUS

GO TO REQUEST THE MEASUREMENT

Fig. 11C
Fig. IID

CHECK TEST STATUS

COMPARE HIGH LOG NUMBER TO LOW LOG NUMBER IN BKGNDE_REC.

NOT EQUAL

EQUAL

IS USING_LOW = FALSE AND USING_HIGH = FALSE?

YES

WARNING STOP CODE = LO WARNING_CODE + HI_WARNING_CODE FROM BKGNDE_REC;
LOG_TO_CLOSE = HIGH LOG NUMBER FROM BKGNDE_REC;

CALL CLEAR_LOG TO ATTEMPT TO CLOSE THE OCCURRENCE LOG USING THE WARNING STOP CODE AND LOG_TO_CLOSE

IF ALARM TIME VALUE IN BKGNDE_REC IS NOT 0 AND THE ALARM TIMER SPECIFIED IN BKGNDE_REC EXISTS THEN FREE UP THE ALARM TIMER

NO

GO TO ADVANCE TO NEXT TEST

YES

WARNING STOP CODE = LOW_WARNING_CODE FROM BKGNDE_REC;
LOG_TO_CLOSE = LOW LOG NUMBER

CALL CLEAR_LOG TO ATTEMPT TO CLOSE THE OCCURRENCE LOG USING THE WARNING STOP CODE AND LOG_TO_CLOSE

IS USING_HIGH TRUE?

YES

WARNING STOP CODE = HI WARNING_CODE FROM BKGNDE_REC; LOG_TO_CLOSE = HIGH LOG NUMBER

NO

GO TO ADVANCE TO NEXT TEST
Fig. 11E

DO COMPARISON

TEST THE MEASUREMENT RESULTS
USING THE THRESHOLDS AND COMPARISON
TEST SPECIFIED IN BKGD_REC

GENERATE HIGH AND LOW THRESHOLDS USING THE NOMINAL_CODE AND
THE RAW_HIGH_THRESHOLD AND RAW_LOW_THRESHOLD FROM BKGD_REC

RUN THE COMPARISON TEST SPECIFIED IN BKGD_REC.
IF THE MEASUREMENT RESULTS FAIL THE TEST CRITERIA THEN THE TEST
WILL CALL THE SUBROUTINE LOG_FAULT PASSING PARAMETERS
OWNER_CODE, LOG_NUMBER AND WARNING_NUMBER.
OWNER_CODE WILL EQUAL EITHER HIGH_OWNER OR LOW_OWNER.
LOG_NUMBER WILL EQUAL EITHER THE LOW LOG NUMBER OR THE HIGH
LOG_NUMBER FROM BKGD_REC
WARNING_NUMBER WILL EQUAL EITHER THE LO_WARNING_CODE OR
HI_WARNING_CODE FROM BKGD_REC

RETURN
Fig. IIIF

LOG_FAULT

IS ALARM TIME VALUE = 0?

YES

CALL SET WARNING

NO

DOES ALARM TIMER IN BKGND_REC REFERENCE A REAL ALARM TIMER?

YES

DOES REFERENCED ALARM TIMER = 0?

YES

ALARM TIMER OWNER CODE = OWNER_CODE;
START ALARM TIMER USING TIMEBASE AND ALARM TIMER VALUE IN BKGND_REC;
CALL SET USING_LOG;

NO

CALL SET WARNING

NO

DOES LOG NUMBER POINT TO A REAL OCCURRENCE LOG?

YES

IS THE LOGGING FLAG SET IN THE OCCURRENCE LOG REFERENCED BY LOG NUMBER?

YES

INCREMENT THE OCCURRENCE LOG AND SET THE LOGGING FLAG TRUE.
IF THE RELAY REQUEST FLAG IS SET IN BKGND_REC THEN SET THE BIT IN BK_RELAY INDEXED BY THE LOG NUMBER AND SET THE BKGND_RELAY BIT.
IF EVENT LOGGING IS ENABLED IN BKGND_REC THEN SEND EVENT CODE = 560 + LOG NUMBER TO THE EVENT LOG.

NO

DOES THE ALARM TIMER OWNER CODE = OWNER_CODE?

YES

GO TO PROCESS RUNNING TIMER

NO

RETURN
if owner_code=high_owner
then set USING_HIGH TRUE;
else set USING_LOW TRUE.

Test alarm timer

still timing or suspended

is the logging flag of the occurrence log TRUE?

YES

Suspend the alarm timer.

NO

Call Set_Warning

Does log number point to a real occurrence log?

YES

is the logging flag in the occurrence log TRUE?

YES

Increment the occurrence log and set logging flag TRUE. If the relay request flag is set in bkgrd_rec then set the bit in bk_relay indexed by the log number and set the Bkgrd_Relay bit. If event logging is enabled in bkgrd_rec then send event code=80+ log number to the event log.

NO

Increment the occurrence timer by the alarm time value specified in the bkgrd_rec minus the elapsed time in the minute timer.

Add the largest interval (60 minutes) to the occurrence timer.

Restart the alarm timer to measure its largest interval (60 minutes) and select the minute timer as the time base.

Return

FIG. 11G
SET_WARNING

IS THE POWER QUALITY MONITOR WARNING FLAG ENABLED IN BKGD_REC?

YES

RETURN

NO

SET THE POWER QUALITY MONITOR WARNING FLAG.

SET THE ASSIGNED BACKGROUND WARNING BIT INDEXED BY THE WARNING_CODE.
Clear the assigned background warning bit indexed by the warning_code.

Does the log_to_close point to a real occurrence log?

YES

Set the logging flag in the referenced occurrence log to FALSE.

NO

Is alarm timer value in bkgrid_rec=0?

YES

Add the time elapsed since the alarm timer was last restarted and the elapsed seconds of the minute timer since the minute timer last rolled over to the occurrence timer.

NO

If the relay request flag is set in bkgrid_rec then clear the bit in bk_relay indexed by the log_to_close.

Are all bits in bk_relay clear?

YES

Clear the Bkgrid_Relay bit.

NO

If event logging is enabled in bkgrid_rec then send event code = $co = log_to_close to the event log.

Return
Service determination for fixed and flexible phase applications.

**FIG. 12**

1. **Determine Service**
   - Power phases = all phases that have voltage greater than the Phase Voltage Threshold

2. **1002**
   - Is meter set for fixed phase operation?
     - **YES**
     - Do powered phases match the required fixed phase pattern?
       - **NO**
       - **END**
       - **YES**
       - **1006**
         - Only phase A powered
           - Measure the voltage of all powered phases
           - **1018**
           - Measure angle of Vba and Vca
           - **1012**
           - Search service table for the first service that includes the measured voltage angles.
           - **1016**
           - Voltage record found?
             - **YES**
             - **1022**
               - Search voltage table for a record that includes the determined service type and all measured phase voltages.
             - **NO**
             - **1024**
               - Was a service record located?
                 - **YES**
                 - **1028**
                   - **Return Service not found**
                 - **NO**
                 - **1026**
                   - Determined service = determined service type + service voltage identified in service record.
             - **NO**
           - **1010**
             - Only phases A,C powered
             - Measure angle of Vca
             - **1014**
             - **NO**
             - **1004**
               - Do powered phases match valid service combinations?
                 - **YES**
                 - **END**
                 - **NO**
               - **1008**
                 - Return Service not found

3. **1004**
   - Do powered phases match valid service combinations?
     - **NO**
     - **END**
     - **YES**
     - **1006**
     - Only phase A powered
     - Measure the voltage of all powered phases
     - **1018**
     - Measure angle of Vba and Vca
     - **1012**
     - Search service table for the first service that includes the measured voltage angles.
     - **1016**
     - Voltage record found?
       - **YES**
       - **1022**
         - Search voltage table for a record that includes the determined service type and all measured phase voltages.
       - **NO**
       - **1026**
         - **Return Service not found**
     - **NO**
     - **1008**
       - **Return Service not found**
From 022

Service Phase Test

Check ABC Rotation first. Initialize a record pointer.

1031

Checking ABC or CBA

ABC

Another Record?

YES

1046

NO

CBA

Reinitialize the record pointer, Start checking CBA rotation.

1044

NO

1032

Does Record have an ABC bit?

NO

YES

1048

1034

Does record have a CBA bit?

Compute the nominal phase angle ranges

Define the service byte

1050

END

1036

Are the measured phase angles with the ranges?

YES

LOCATE the service type bit in record

END

1040

Store a pointer to the service record

1042

END

Store a pointer to the Service record

Fig. 13
SERVICE VOLTAGE TEST

FROM 1026

INITIALIZE A VOLTAGE RECORD POINTER

1061

NO

ANOTHER RECORD?

YES

1060

NO

DOES RECORD CONTAIN MATCHING SERVICE BYTE BIT?

YES

1062

NOMINAL VOLTAGE = SERVICE VOLTAGE DEFINED BY RECORD

1066

RETURN FLAG INDICATING SERVICE VOLTAGE = 0

1072

NO

GENERATE VOLTAGE THRESHOLDS FOR EACH PHASE

1062

ARE MEASURED PHASE VOLTAGES WITHIN RANGES?

YES

1064

SAVE A POINTER TO THE VOLTAGE RECORD

1068

END
1 
ENERGY METER HAVING PROGRAMMABLE FUNCTIONS

RELATED APPLICATION DATA

The present application is a continuation and claims priority from PCT application No. PCT/US97/18457, having an international filing date of Oct. 16, 1997, which claims priority from provisional application Serial No. 60/028,986, filed on Oct. 22, 1996.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to electronic energy meters, and more particularly to highly functional programmable electronic energy meters with systems for service identification and power quality analysis.

BACKGROUND

Programmable electronic energy meters are rapidly replacing electromechanical meters due to the enhanced functionality achieved using programmable logic integrated into solid-state electronic meters. Some of these meters can be used to meter various different electrical services without hardware modification. For example, meters having a voltage operating range between 98 Vrms to 526 Vrms are capable of operation with either 120 V or 480 V services. U.S. Pat. No. 5,457,621, dated Oct. 10, 1995, entitled SWITCHING POWER SUPPLY HAVING VOLTAGE BLOCKING CLAMP, assigned to ABB Power T&D Company discloses examples of such meters. In addition, some meters are constructed for use with any 3-wire or any 4-wire service, also disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,457,621. Unless meters having this versatility are used, utilities must be careful to install the correct meter in relation to both configuration and electrical service supplied at the installation site. Unfortunately, meter installers are not always trained to detect or note service particularities which might indicate that the meter to be installed is not configured properly for a particular installation.

For this reason, some utilities configure the meters themselves to ensure better control over which meters are installed at which installation sites. However, such configuration activity adds to the installation cost and does not always reduce the risk that a meter configured for one service might inadvertently be installed at a site supplied by a different service. Therefore, there remains a need for an electronic meter which automatically detects the service type and voltage to which the meter is installed and which either automatically configures its own programming to the detected service or provides a simple means for manual configuration at the installation site.

Further, the performance of power quality tests requires that the type of service and service voltage be known prior to installation so that the meter’s programming can be locked to the appropriate service-dependent thresholds utilized in connection with particularized power quality tests. Therefore, for this additional reason, there remains a need for an electronic meter to automatically detect the service type and voltage to which the meter is installed and which automatically configures its programming to the detected service.

In addition, many new electronic energy meters have begun to take advantage of their programming capabilities by providing limited diagnostic and/or power quality testing. These capabilities are provided by programming stored in read only memory (ROM). Thus, these meters are currently limited in operation to predefined programming, such as predefined sets of tests. Significantly, such meters are also limited to the measurement of only a predetermined set of parameters that have been programmed into such meters, i.e., stored in ROM, during manufacture. Consequently, any change to the measurements or tests supported by the meter must be carried out by replacing the meter’s ROM, i.e., by factory modification. Therefore, there also exists a need for a more flexible electronic energy meter that permits the addition of new measurements or testing capabilities without requiring factory modifications to effect such functionality changes.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The above problems are overcome and the advantages of the invention are achieved in methods and apparatus for metering electrical energy in an electronic meter which automatically detects the service type and voltage to which the meter is installed and which either automatically configures its own programming to the detected service or provides a simple means for manual configuration at the installation site. The electronic energy meter also permits the addition of new measurements or testing capabilities without requiring factory modifications to effect such functionality changes.

The meter includes firmware which measures the characteristics of electrical energy supplied to the meter and which generates characteristic signals reflective of the measured characteristics of the electrical energy. A processor is connected to receive and process the characteristic signals. The processing of the characteristic signals includes selecting and manipulating certain of the characteristic signals and generating characteristic information in response to the selection and generating additional characteristic information in response to the manipulation. It is preferred for the meter to include a memory having reference information stored therein. In such an embodiment, the manipulation of characteristic signals includes retrieving certain of the reference information and generating the characteristic information in response to the selected signals and the reference information.

The present invention is directed to a meter for metering electrical energy provided to the meter via a service type, comprising: means for receiving a measurement request; memory means for storing data in data tables; processor means for performing at least one function responsive to the measurement request and the data in the data tables, and generating output information responsive to the measurement request and the data in the data tables; and output means for outputting the output information in accordance with a predetermined priority scheme.

According to aspects of the present invention, the processor means comprises a first processor and a second processor, and the measurement request is made by one of the first processor and the second processor, and the memory means is an EEPROM.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, the means for receiving the measurement request is an optical communications external source or an electronic external source.

In accordance with further aspects of the present invention, the measurement request comprises a display measurement request, a power quality measurement request, or an external communications request. Each of the display measurement request, the power quality measurement request, and the external communications request has an
associated priority, the priority of the external communications request being greater than the priority of the display measurement request and the priority of the power quality measurement request.

In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention, the means for receiving the measurement request receives the measurement request serially or sequentially.

In accordance with further aspects of the present invention, the data tables comprises a system current test table for testing the system current, a service angle table, a service voltage table, and a phase tolerance table. The system current test table comprises system current thresholds for different service types. The service angle table comprises phase angle information for different service types, and the service voltage table comprises a voltage, at least one tolerance, and a potential indicator threshold for the different service types.

According to further aspects of the invention, the meter further comprises means to determine the service type, and a thresholds table for receiving data corresponding to the service type from the system current test table, the service angle table, and the service voltage table, and further comprises a power quality test table for storing a result of a power quality comparison test performed by the meter. The power quality test table further comprises information referencing a measurement record for the result of the power quality comparison test. The information is a pointer to the measurement record. In an embodiment, the power quality test table further comprises information referencing threshold information in a thresholds table for use in the power quality comparison test.

According to further aspects of the present invention, the meter further comprises a comparison test table for storing comparison tests and a measurement table for storing measurement records. The measurement table comprises information referencing a record in a measurement function table.

In accordance with further aspects of the present invention, the meter further comprises a measurement function table for identifying a digital signal processor (DSP) function to be performed. The measurement function table comprises information referencing a record in a constant table. The record comprises an initialization constant or a calibration constant. The measurement function table further comprises information referencing a record in a conversion table which specifies at least one computation to be performed with the DSP function.

In accordance with further aspects of the present invention, the function comprises display and test selection, display and test parameter adjustment, test definition, or measurement definition. The display and test selection is for inserting predetermined byte sequences into a table to display predetermined measurement quantities and for enabling the meter to perform predetermined power quality tests, each power quality test comprising a predetermined number of steps. The meter further comprises a step counter for counting the predetermined number of steps. An indicator is activated if the step counter exceeds a predetermined threshold.

In accordance with further aspects of the present invention, the test parameter adjustment is for changing the number of line cycle pairs over which an electrical measurement is performed. The test parameter adjustment is for modifying voltage, current, power factor, and time thresholds of the tests that are performed. The test definition is for creating at least one power quality test by combining a plurality of test parameter thresholds. The measurement definition is for creating electrical measurements by combining DSP functions.

In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention, the at least one function is selectable.

Another embodiment within the scope of this invention includes a process for metering electrical energy provided to a meter via a service type, comprising the steps of: receiving a measurement request; storing data in data tables; performing at least one function responsive to the measurement request and the data in the data tables, and generating output information responsive to the measurement request and the data in the data tables; and outputting the output information in accordance with a predetermined priority scheme.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be better understood, and its numerous objects and advantages will become apparent, by reference to the following detailed description of the invention when taken in conjunction with the following drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the functional components of an exemplary meter and their interfaces in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a functional block diagram showing the logic that may be employed by a digital signal processor (DSP) to drive the potential indicators in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a diagram showing the functional grouping of data into tables and the meter relationship among the tables as implemented in a preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 4 is a state diagram showing the measurement states within a preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 5 is a functional diagram showing the system architecture for performing instrumentation measurements and power quality monitoring as is implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 6 is a context diagram showing an exemplary measurement engine processing utilizing internal flags in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 7 is an example of a state transition diagram for the measurement engine in accordance with the present invention;

FIGS. 8A–8E are detailed functional flow diagrams showing the steps carried out by the measurement engine in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 9A and 9B show a context diagram for an exemplary power quality test engine processing utilizing internal flags in accordance with the present invention;

FIGS. 10A and 10B are a series of state diagrams showing exemplary power quality engine resource processing scenarios in accordance with present invention;

FIGS. 11A–11I are detailed functional flow diagrams showing the steps carried out by the power quality test engine in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 12 is a flow diagram showing the steps carried out by an exemplary microcontroller in accordance with the present invention to automatically and electronically identify the service definition;

FIG. 13 is a detailed flow diagram showing an exemplary service phase table search in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 14 is a detailed flow diagram showing an exemplary service voltage table search in accordance with the present invention;
FIG. 15 is a state diagram showing the states for exemplary service lock processing according to the present invention.

FIG. 16 is a flow diagram of an exemplary service test and display features in accordance with the present invention; and

FIG. 17 is a flow diagram of an exemplary flicker determination and display feature in accordance with the present invention.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

A. Operational Overview

The present invention provides comprehensive power quality monitoring and diagnostic features in connection with metering single and poly-phase electrical energy. FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the functional components of an exemplary meter and their interfaces in accordance with the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1, a meter for metering three-phase or single phase electrical energy preferably includes a digital LCD type display 30, a meter integrated circuit (IC) 14 which preferably comprises A/D converters and a programmable DSP, and a microcontroller 16.

Analog voltage and current signals propagating over power transmission lines between the power generation of the electrical service provider and the users of the electrical energy are sensed by voltage dividers 12A, 12B, 12C and current transformers 18A, 18B, 18C, respectively. The outputs of the resistive dividers 12A–12C and current transformers 18A–18C, or sensed voltage and current signals, are provided as inputs to meter IC 14. The A/D converters in the meter IC 14 convert the sensed voltage and current signals into digital representations of the analog voltage and current signals. In a preferred embodiment, the A/D conversion is carried out as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,544,089 dated Aug. 6, 1996, and entitled PROGRAMMABLE ELECTRICAL METER USING MULTIPLIED ANALOG-TO-DIGITAL CONVERTERS, assigned to ABB Power T & D Company. The digital voltage and current signals are then input to the programmable DSP in the meter IC 14 for generating pulsed signals 42, 44, 46, 48 representing various power measurements, i.e., each pulse represents the Kc value associated with Watts, VARs, or VARS. These pulsed signals may be processed by the microcontroller 16 to perform revenue metering functions for billing purposes.

The exemplary microcontroller 16, in accordance with the present invention, performs numerous revenue metering functions, as well as instrumentation functions. Instrumentation functions, in contrast to revenue functions, are intended to assist a technician in evaluating a service based on near-instantaneous conditions at the meter. Instrumentation measurements may include system parameters such as frequency, Watts, VARs, and VAs, and per phase information such as voltage, current, phase angles, power factor, current to voltage angle, kWatts, kVARs, kVA, and harmonic distortion related parameters. Table 1 lists some examples of instrumentation parameters that may be computed by the present invention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Measured on A Phase voltage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System kWatts</td>
<td>Signed sum of the kW measurement on each phase taken moments apart.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The meter IC 14 and the microcontroller 16 each preferably interface with one or more memory devices through an I2C bus 36. An EEPROM 35 is provided to store revenue data as well as programs and program data. Upon power up after installation, a power failure, or a data altering communication, for example, selected programs and program data stored in the EEPROM 35 may be downloaded to the program RAM and data RAM associated with the meter IC 14, as shown in FIG. 1. The DSP under the control of the microcontroller 16 processes the digital voltage and current signals in accordance with the downloaded programs and data stored in the respective program and data RAM.

To perform instrumentation functions, the microcontroller 16 may use voltage and current, real and apparent energy with lead/lag indication, frequency, and relative voltage or current phase angle information from the DSP. According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the meter IC 14 monitors the digital phase voltage signals and phase current signals over two line cycles (at about 50 or 60 Hz), two line cycle measurements are defined herein as RMS measurements even though they are “near-instantaneous”) and then computes the RMS voltage and current values, real and apparent energies with lead/lag indication, average frequency, or relative voltage or current phase angle information. It should be understood that the number of line cycles is preferably programmable and a different number of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>System kWatts</td>
<td>Root-mean square-difference of the System kWatts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System kVARs</td>
<td>Signed sum of the kVAR measurement on each phase taken moments apart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System kVARs</td>
<td>Sum of the kVAR measurement on each phase taken moments apart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System kVARs</td>
<td>Root-mean square-sum of the System kWatts and the System kVARs (Vectorial),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System kVARs</td>
<td>System kWatts divided by the System kVARs (Vectorial).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System kVARs</td>
<td>(Arithmetic).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System kVARs</td>
<td>System kWatts divided by the System kVARs (Vectorial).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System kVARs</td>
<td>(Arithmetic).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System kVARs</td>
<td>Measurements are true RMS; each phase voltage and current is measured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System kVARs</td>
<td>simultaneously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Voltage</td>
<td>Each phase angle is measured relative to Phase A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angle</td>
<td>Phase A zero crossings, rounded to 30 degrees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltage</td>
<td>Phase kWatts, divided by Phase kVARs (measured simultaneously).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Voltage</td>
<td>Inverse cosine of Phase Power Factor (prior to rounding), rounded to 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angle</td>
<td>Phase Current to Phase Voltage Angle, plus the nominal Phase Voltage Angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltage</td>
<td>Relative to Phase A Voltage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase kWatts, kVARs</td>
<td>Each phase kWatts and kVARs is measured simultaneously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase kVARs</td>
<td>Root-mean square-difference of the Phase kVARs and Phase kWatts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Harmonic</td>
<td>Square root of the sum of the squares of the second through fifth fundamental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltage</td>
<td>values of the Phase Voltage or Phase Current, divided by the phase quantity’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distortion</td>
<td>fundamental magnitude.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indication</td>
<td>The phase quantity’s 2nd Harmonic Voltage Magnitude, divided by the phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>quantity’s fundamental magnitude.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Measurements are true RMS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Measurements are true RMS.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
line cycles, such as one line cycle for example, may be used for designated measurements. The RMS parameters are computed for a single phase at a time and stored in the data RAM in IC 14. The microcontroller 16 polls for data in these registers via the IIC bus 36 for requested instrumentation measurement. Because the instrumentation measurements are near-instantaneous, no values are stored other than the ones presently being requested.

The DSP in the meter IC 14 also drives potential indicators lines 41, 43, and 45. Microcontroller 16 echoes the line states to potential indicators 27, 29, and 31 which are preferably designated sections on the LCD 30. Potential indicators for each phase remain lit for as long as the corresponding phase potential is present.

FIG. 2 shows a functional block diagram for exemplary logic that may be employed by the DSP in the IC 14 to drive the potential indicators 27, 29, and 31 in accordance with the present invention. While the logic for only one phase is shown, it should be understood that the logic is preferably replicated for each phase. As shown in FIG. 2, the digital samples for each phase voltage are provided to an RMS measurement generator 51. In a preferred embodiment, the RMS measurement generator computes the RMS measurements in accordance with the following formula:

\[ V_{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum v_i^2}{N}} \]

where \( N \) equals the number of samples per a selected number of line cycle intervals.

A programmable potential indicator threshold 53 is preferably downloaded from the EEPROM 35 to the data RAM in the IC 14. Although initial programmable thresholds are downloaded following power-up, it is also preferable that the potential indicator thresholds be updated following certain system tests which are described in detail below. A comparator 55 compares the RMS measurement from the RMS measurement generator 51 with the potential indicator threshold 53 and generates an output that is high whenever the RMS measurement exceeds the programmable potential indicator threshold. The output of the comparator 55 is provided to the microcontroller 16. Referring back to FIG. 1, phase A, B, and C potential signals are output from the meter IC 14 to the microcontroller 16, which in turn drives the potential indicators 27, 29, and 31 so that the potential indicator remains lit when the corresponding potential signals are high.

The present invention preferably utilizes three display modes for the LCD 30, namely, normal, alternate, and test modes. On power-up following initialization, at a preset time, or following a data altering communication, programmably designated tests are preferably executed. Following the tests, in the normal display mode, in a preferred embodiment, the meter sequentially and continuously scrolls through display items selected for the normal display mode. The display items may include both revenue data and instrumentation parameters.

The alternate mode and test mode are manually initiated in a preferred embodiment. Different and/or additional display items may also preferably be selected for display in the alternate and test modes. The alternate mode preferably either scrolls through the selected parameters once or can be made to manually step through the displayed items. Items or parameters selected for display during test mode are continuously scrolled until the test mode is manually terminated.

The tests that are performed by the present invention may be categorized as operating error tests, system tests, power quality tests, and flicker tests.

The operating error tests are used to identify those conditions that may affect revenue data, such as power outage carryover errors, configuration errors, EEPROM errors, and the like. These errors are displayed when they are detected and are preferably locked on the display.

The system tests include a system service voltage test (hereinafter referred to as a ‘service test’) and a system current test. Generally, the service test is used to verify that the voltage phase angles are within a predefined range for the particular service and that the phase voltages are within a predefined voltage range of the valid service nominal voltages. The system current tests may check for low current conditions, over current conditions, reverse power, and/or improper power factor conditions.

The power quality tests permit testing and evaluation for the following conditions: abnormal service voltage, abnormally high or low voltage, abnormally low or high current, abnormal leading or lagging power factor, and various harmonic distortions, as well as other abnormal conditions.

Flicker tests monitor the phase potentials signals for frequent temporary losses of phase potential.

Following power-up at installation, a service test is preferably performed to identify and/or check the electrical service. The present invention may be preprogrammed for use with a designated service or it may determine the service using a service test. When the service test is used to identify the electrical service, an initial determination is made of the number of active elements. To this end, each element (i.e., 1, 2 or 3 elements) is checked for voltage, for example, by monitoring the outputs of comparator 55 in FIG. 2 for each phase. Once the number of elements is identified, many of the service types can be eliminated from the list of possible service types. The voltage phase angle relative to phase A may then be calculated and compared to each phase angle for abc or cba rotations with respect to the remaining possible services, e.g., within ±15°. If a valid service is found from the phase angle comparisons, the service voltage is preferably determined by comparing the RMS voltage measurements for each phase with nominal phase voltages for the identified service. If the nominal service voltages for the identified service matches measured values within an acceptable tolerance range, a valid service is identified and the phase rotation, service voltage, and service type are preferably displayed. The service may be locked, i.e., the service information is stored in the EEPROM 35, manually or automatically.

When the service type is known in advance and locked, the service test preferably checks to ensure that each element is receiving phase potential and that the phase angles are within a predetermined percentage of the nominal phase angles for the known service. The per-phase voltages are also measured and compared to the nominal service voltages to determine whether they are within a predefined tolerance range of the nominal phase voltages. If the voltages and phase angles are within the specified ranges, the phase rotation, the service voltage, and service type are displayed on the meter display. If either a valid service is not found or the service test for a designated service fails, a system error code indicating an invalid service is displayed and locked on the display to ensure that the failure is noted and evaluated to correct the error.

The present invention may also be programmed so that immediately following the service test after installation,
power-up, etc., the alternate mode is initiated. In order to avoid crowding the normal display, it is preferred that the instrumentation parameters and the system tests be included in the alternate display mode and not the normal display mode. It is also preferred that the service test and the system current test be specified as the first and second parameters of the alternate display, respectively. If the service test or system current test fail while in the alternate mode, a system error code indicating the error is displayed in the alternate scroll sequence. Examples of possible system error codes designated by an "SER XXXXX" error message are shown in Table 2.

### Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Event</th>
<th>Error Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missing A Phase Current</td>
<td>SER 0000010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing B Phase Current</td>
<td>SER 0000001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing C Phase Current</td>
<td>SER 0000001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low A Phase Current</td>
<td>SER 0000020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low B Phase Current</td>
<td>SER 0000020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low C Phase Current</td>
<td>SER 0000022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorrect PF on A Phase</td>
<td>SER 0000040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorrect PF on B Phase</td>
<td>SER 0000040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorrect PF on C Phase</td>
<td>SER 0000040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse Power on A Phase</td>
<td>SER 0000050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse Power on B Phase</td>
<td>SER 0000050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse Power on C Phase</td>
<td>SER 0000050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Current on A Phase Current</td>
<td>SER 0000080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Current on B Phase Current</td>
<td>SER 0000080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Current on C Phase Current</td>
<td>SER 0000080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Current on A Phase</td>
<td>SER 0000080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Current on B Phase</td>
<td>SER 0000080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Current on C Phase</td>
<td>SER 0000080</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If multiple tested conditions fail, the associated system error codes may be added together so that a single error code is displayed in the appropriate sequence. In a preferred embodiment, the error codes are hexadecimal values so that an excess current condition “8” and an inappropriate power factor “4” would be reported as “C.”

Any system test selected for the alternate mode display is preferably carried out until the results are displayed. Therefore, the measurements made in connection with the system tests do not require storage in memory. Similarly, no instrumentation parameters selected for the alternate mode display are preferably calculated until they are required. The measurements made are recorded in the embedded memory.

Referring back to FIG. 1, the exemplary meter according to the present invention also provides for remote meter reading, remote power quality monitoring, and reprogramming through an optical port 40 and/or an option connector 38. Although optical communications may be used in connection with the optical port 40, the option connector 38 may be adapted for RF communications or electronic communications via modem, for example.

Revenue functions, communications, system tests, flicker testing, and instrumentation features preferably have priority in terms of processing over power quality tests. Therefore, the power quality tests are processed in the background. Although the designated power quality tests are run one-at-a-time in a fixed sequence, they are only run when processing time is available, and accordingly, not at fixed intervals. However, it should be understood that certain power quality tests could be given higher priority such that those higher priority tests could be carried out at fixed intervals.

When an abnormal condition is detected by any of the designated power quality tests (which may include the service tests and/or system current tests), a predefined code indicative of an abnormal condition is preferably optionally injected as the first item in the normal scroll sequence. However, since the condition is not necessarily related to one specific error, it is considered a warning or a flag condition and display of the predefined code preferably does not affect the operation of the meter. Whether or not particular abnormal conditions drive a warning on the display may be selected through programmable options.

The warnings may be time and date stamped and logged in an event log and the number of events and cumulative time of the conditions may be separately logged in an occurrence log. The logs are preferably stored in the EEPROM 35 shown in FIG. 1. The information stored in these logs may be accessed through software for further diagnostic processing and evaluation external to the meter itself.

The systems for performing system, power quality, and flicker tests according to the present invention are preferably implemented in firmware, wherein such operations are enabled by the correct programming of several data tables. The functional inter-relationships of these tables is shown in FIG. 3. System current tests are performed utilizing data stored in the system current test table 114 which generally includes system current threshold levels for each service supported by the meter. Service tests are performed utilizing the data records stored in the service angle table 116 and the service voltage table 118. The records in the service angle table 116 may preferably include the nominal phase angle information for each service supported by the meter, whereas the records in the service voltage table 118 may preferably include the nominal voltage and tolerances for each service and a corresponding potential indicator threshold. A separate table, the phase tolerance table 115, is preferably used in connection with the service voltage test stored in EEPROM 35. Once the service is locked, the data corresponding to the service is transferred from tables 114, 116, and 118 to a thresholds table 122.

The power quality tests preferably form a predefined set of comparison tests. A record is stored in a power quality test table 108 for each comparison test to be carried out by the meter. The comparison and associated records are stored in a comparison test table 110. The power quality test table 108 also may include information referencing a measurement record for the measurement to be tested by the referenced comparison test table 108. Additionally references threshold information for test comparisons from the thresholds table 122.

The measurement records are stored in a measurement table 100 which preferably includes information referencing a record in the measurement function table 102. The records in the measurement function table 102 identify a DSP function to be performed and may additionally reference a record in the constant table 104 which may include initialization and calibration constants used to carry out the functions. The records in the measurement table 100 may also reference a record in a conversion table 106 which specifies particular computations to be performed in connection with the specified DSP function to complete the measurement desired for comparison by the power quality test.

The DSP program in conjunction with the DSP hardware implements the fundamental measurement capabilities of the meter. The preferred embodiment has provisions for different versions of DSP programs to provide the capability to perform additional fundamental measurements. In the preferred embodiment, a DSP address and internal RAM page selector 121 are provided to the power quality measurement engine to allow the engine to communicate with...
versions of DSP programs that may have different IIC addresses and/or internal RAM addresses. Programming for the data tables shown in FIG. 3 can preferably be divided into four levels of activities: (1) Display and Test Selection; (2) Display and Test Parameter Adjustment; (3) Test Definition; and (4) Measurement Definition.

Display selection involves the insertion of predefined byte sequences into a display table to enable the meter to display predefined measurement quantities. Test selection involves the insertion of predefined byte sequences into the power quality test table 108 to enable the meter to perform predefined power quality tests.

Display parameter adjustment involves changing the number of line cycle pairs over which a given electrical measurement is performed as indicated by the selected function. Test parameter adjustment involves the modification of voltage, current, power factor, and time thresholds in the system current test table 114, the service phase table 116, the service voltage table 118, and the power quality test table 108 to effect the sensitivity of the various tests that can be performed.

Test definition involves the creation of new power quality tests by new combinations of test parameter thresholds in tables 114, 116, and 108 with defined electrical measurements.

Measurement definition involves the creation of new electrical measurements by new combinations of DSP functions and computations.

New hardware capabilities are added via the measurement function table 102 and the constants table 104. Moreover, new computations can be added or defined via the conversion table 106 or by specifying a sequence of computations from the conversion table 106. New measurements can be added by either combining new DSP functions with computations, DSP functions with new computations, or new DSP functions with new computations, into new measurements records.

B. Instrumentation Measurement and Monitor Interaction

FIG. 4 shows a state diagram of the measurement states within a preferred embodiment of the invention. The measurement routines are executed by a measurement engine which is described in detail below. The measurement engine remains in the idle state 140 until a request for measurement is received. Measurement requests may be initiated for the purpose of displaying an instrumentation parameter, performing a power quality test, or for transmitting a measured parameter via external communications.

A display measurement request 136 may be received when a quantity is desired for display in one of the display modes supported by the meter. Upon receipt of a display measurement request 136, the measurement engine transitions to the display measurement processing state 144 and remains in that state 144 until the measurement is computed, stored in a register, and retrieved for display. In a preferred embodiment, the measurement engine remains in the display measurement processing state 144 until (1) the measurement is computed, stored in a register and retrieved for display, (2) until a higher priority measurement request is received, or (3) an error occurs as a result of processing the display request. After the measurement is completed, the display request processing state transitions at 138 back to the idle state 140.

As shown in FIG. 4, so long as background testing is enabled, a power quality measurement request 130 may be received. The power quality measurement request 130 designates which measured quantity is to be used in a current power quality test, e.g., phase B RMS voltage for comparison to a maximum acceptable voltage level for phase B, given the locked service. When received, the measurement engine transitions from the idle state 140 to the power quality measurement processing state 146 where the measurement designated by the power quality measurement request 130 is processed. The measurement is stored in a register which is accessed by a power quality test engine (described below in detail) so that the power quality test can be carried out utilizing the measured quantity. In a preferred embodiment, the power quality test engine acknowledges receipt of the measured quantity. The measurement engine remains in state 146 until the measurement is done. When the power quality measurement processing is complete, the measurement engine transitions at 132 to the idle state 140.

An external communication request 154 may be received via optical communications or electronically from an external source in which a particular measurement is requested for transmission to the external source. When a request 154 is received, the measurement engine transitions from the idle state 140 to the communication measurement processing state 142. The designated measurement is processed and stored in a register accessible by the communications routines of the meter. When the measurement is done, the measurement engine transitions at 152 back to the idle state 140.

In a preferred embodiment, meter communications has priority over both measurement display functions and power quality testing. Similarly, display measurement functions have priority over power quality testing. Thus, if the measurement engine is in the power quality measurement processing state 146 and a display measurement request 136 is received, the measurement engine transitions at 151 to the display measurement processing state 144. Any computations or measurement data generated before transitioning to the display measurement processing state 144 is preferably not saved, and therefore, the power quality measurement is reinitiated when the measurement engine returns to the idle state 140 after display measurement processing is complete.

In a similar manner, if a communication measurement request 154 is received while the measurement engine is in either the power quality measurement processing state 146 or the display measurement processing state 144, the measurement engine transitions at 150 and 158, respectively, to the communication measurement processing state 142. In a preferred embodiment, no data generated in either state 146 or state 144 is stored after transitioning to state 142. Consequently, a new power quality measurement request 130 or display measurement request 136 is initiated to invoke the interrupted measurement processing after the communication measurement processing is complete and the measurement engine returns to the idle state 140.

The system architecture for performing instrumentation measurement and power quality monitoring is implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention as shown in FIG. 5. The system architecture is functionally divided into two engines, the measurement engine 50 and the power quality engine 52.

Instrumentation measurements may be selected for display by programming (1) a measurement record number, (2) formatting information, and (3) phase to measure in a display table which defines the display sequence. An example of the information that might be included in a display table is set forth in Table 3.
TABLE 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MR #</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Current * 10, Voltage * 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total power factor angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>KVA, KW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>KVAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>PF Angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>KW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2nd Harmonic Current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Magnitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>V-Angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1-Angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Percent 2nd Harmonic Voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Power KVA(k), KWatts (Vectorial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Power VA (Vectorial and Arithmetical)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Total PF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Total THD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>THD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Total Power KVA, KWatts (Arithmetical)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>VTHD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Total VAK (Arithmetic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Total PF (Arithmetic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Single Phase Power Factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Electrical System Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Determination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The display table is preferably generated and written to the meter EEPROM 35 so that the information can be accessed by both the microcontroller 16 and the DSP in the IC 14 during meter operation.

As discussed above, instrumentation measurements may also be desired for power quality tests. The power quality engine 52 allows the meter to monitor and log various conditions of the power line. A power quality test may be constructed by combining any instrumentation measurement, for example, in Table 3, with a comparison test which may utilize test parameters configured by the service test, i.e., threshold values based on the locked service. Records of this nature are stored in the power quality test table shown generally in FIG. 3 and described in detail below.

Therefore, the display configuration table preferably includes two entry definitions, one for normal display quantities and one for power quality measurements. The definitions can be mixed within the table to obtain the desired display sequence. Power quality measurements are considered instrumentation quantities as opposed to billing quantities. If a power quality measurement is selected which is unavailable in a given meter or installed service, the meter preferably skips the display with no warning or error. This is desirable so that a single pre-defined display table will work in multiple applications regardless of the rate for which the program was generated.

Referring again to FIG. 5, the power quality engine 52 retrieves a measurement record number 67 from the next power quality test record and generates a power quality measurement request comprising a measurement record number 66. The request references one of the measurement records from the measurement table. A measurement record generally comprises a function/constant index, a conversion routine index, and a pointer to the next measurement record. The function index references one of a predefined set of measurement functions that the DSP may perform. The constant index references initialization constants and service-dependent constants based on the locked service.

The conversion routine index references one of a set of predefined conversion routines that operate on the data manipulated and returned by the DSP. Examples of conversion routines include computational routines such as scaling, square root or trigonometric functions, system test routines, iteration routines, expansion routines, and power measurement computation routines, to name a few.

To better understand the measurement process, consider the situation in which the phase angle for the current I_p is desired to be displayed. The microcontroller references a measurement record and invokes the DSP function designated in that record via bus 36 to the DSP. In this example, the DSP function returns Watts and VA on phase B over a designated number of line cycles. When the DSP completes these measurements, the measurements are stored in the return registers in data RAM. The microcontroller 16 polls for these measurements and retrieves them over the bus 36 when they are available. Then the microcontroller 16 performs the conversion routine referenced by the measurement. In the present example, the conversion routine would call for dividing the watts measurement by the VA measurement to compute the power factor for phase B. The next record field would then reference the next measurement record to be processed. That record would include a reference to the conversion routine for determining the arccosine of the power factor to arrive at the phase angle associated with phase B current.

In FIG. 5, the measurement engine 50 is shown processing a measurement record for power quality monitoring purposes although the measurement record processing is preferably the same for display processing. In either case, the measurement record number is shown at 67, the conversion index is shown at 58, and the function index is shown at 56. The measurement engine 50 thus performs the designated DSP function and computational routines specified by respective function and conversion indices of the measurement record identified by the power quality measurement request. The measurement engine 50 then processes the next measurement record designated in the next measurement record field of the current measurement record.

FIG. 6 is a context diagram showing the measurement engine processing utilizing internal flags in accordance with the present invention. In a preferred embodiment, the DSP is capable of being programmed to perform several different types of measurement functions such as voltage, current, power, apparent power, frequency, harmonic content, etc., on the meter inputs. Of course, the DSP could be replaced by any type of device, or system that is capable of producing a fundamental measurement. For this discussion the production of any fundamental measurement by such a system is referred to as a DSP conversion. The measurement engine provides the capability to combine sequences of fundamental measurements and mathematical computations (referred to as conversion routines) to produce an instrumentation measurement.

The context diagram in FIG. 6 shows that a measurement requestor 111 such as the power quality monitor engine starts the measurement engine 120 by providing a measurement record number, a description of the meter phase or phases that are to be measured, a flag indicating whether or not intermediate working register R0 should be saved before
beginning, and a flag indicating whether or not DSP conversion should be performed before the conversion routine is executed. The measurement engine 120 responds by clearing the measurement finished flag 123 and returning a flag indicating that the measurement has been started. The measurement engine 120 then operates independently from the requester 111 to interpret a linked list of measurement records in the measurement table to produce a measurement result for the requester.

In a preferred embodiment, if the measurement engine 120 is started before a previous measurement request has been completed, the first measurement request will be aborted and the second request will be performed. Contention for the measurement engine 120 is avoided by a priority scheme. Three levels of priority are used: background priority, foreground priority, and communication priority. The power quality monitor engine operates at the background priority, the meter display operates at the foreground priority, and devices communicating via a communications protocol operate at the communications priority. Other embodiments might provide other means for handling multiple measurement requests such as, but not limited to: requests for a measurement request to be finished before another can be started, allowing additional measurement requests to be queued and processed one at a time, interrupting the measurement request in process until the new request is processed, or processing the measurement requests in parallel.

FIG. 7 is an example of a state transition diagram for an exemplary measurement engine 50 in accordance with the present invention and FIGS. 8A–8E are more detailed functional flow diagrams showing the steps carried out by the measurement engine 50 in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention. In FIG. 7, the circles represent states and the boxes represent actions. The labeled lines represent the conditions that allow for transition between states.

During the Idle state 200, the measurement engine waits for a Start Test event 202. The Start Test event 202 provides the measurement engine with a test number and specifies the phase or phases on which to perform the test. The test number is used as an index into a linked list of test records. Each test record can specify zero or one DSP measurement requests and several kinds of conversion routines. If the EEPROM tables used by the measurement engine have valid checksums (indicating that the tables have been correctly programmed) and the DSP can be put in a state where it is ready to receive measurement requests, then test step counter 204 is initialized to zero and the actions specified in box 206 are performed. A test can comprise a number of steps. A step may wait for the DSP to perform a measurement. At box 206, a timeout down counter is started to provide a time limit on the amount of time that the measurement engine will wait for the DSP to complete a requested measurement. If the test record indexed by the test number contains a DSP measurement request, the measurement request is sent to the DSP. If the measurement request was sent to the DSP or the test record specifies only conversion routines, then the measurement engine transitions along line 208 to the Foreground Test In Process, No Error state 210. If the DSP could not be sent a measurement request in 206 or if an IEC bus error occurred while accessing the DSP or EEPROM, then line 216 is followed to the Power Quality Test Done Error state.

The measurement engine remains at the Foreground Test In Process, No Error state 210 until either the DSP measurement is completed or the timeout down counter counts down to zero. If the DSP measurement completes without error and the test record indexed by the test number points to another test record, then at box 212 the conversion routine is performed and the step counter is incremented. If the step counter exceeds a maximum number of steps (preferably set to 127), then the test is assumed to be incorrectly defined and the measurement engine will transition along line 214 to the Power Quality Test Done Error state. Otherwise, the test number is replaced by the test number of the test record indexed by the present value of the test number and the actions specified by box 206 are repeated.

If the DSP measurement completes without error and the test record indexed by the test number does not point to another test record, then the Foreground Test In Process, No Error state 210 transitions at 226 to the Test Done Requestor Timer Started state 228. During this transition, the timeout count down timer is reset to a new value to set a limit on the amount of time that the measurement engine will wait before automatically returning to the Idle state 200.

If an error has been detected 224 at the Foreground Test in Process, No Error state 210, then the measurement engine transitions to the Power Quality Test Done Error state. During this transition, the timeout down counter is decremented to a new value to set a limit on the amount of time that the measurement engine will wait before automatically returning to the Idle state 200.

If the measurement engine is at the Power Quality Test Done Error State and the timeout down counter counts down to zero, then a Requestor Read Time Out event 222 has occurred and the measurement engine transitions to the Idle state 200.

If the measurement engine is at the Power Quality Test Done Error State, an error may be recorded as indicated by the Requestor Reads Error Status event 221 and then the measurement engine will transition to the Idle state 200.

If the measurement engine is at the Test Done, Requestor Timer Started state and the timeout down counter counts down to zero, then a Time Out Waiting For Requestor To Read Result 234 event has occurred and the measurement engine will transition to the Idle state 200.

If the measurement engine is at the Test Done, Requestor Timer Started state 228 and the measurement engine is asked for the measurement result via the Requestor Reads Result event 230, then the conversion routine of the last test record indexed will be performed and the result will be returned to the requestor or if the conversion routine created an error then a power tool error will be reported, as shown at box 232.

FIGS. 8A–8E are more detailed functional flow diagrams showing the steps carried out by the measurement engine 50 in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 8A, it can be seen that the measurement engine 50 has two entry points: start background test 235 and start test 236. The start background test 235 is used by the power quality monitor engine 52 to send a measurement request to the measurement engine 50. The background test in process flag (element 124 in FIG. 6) provides feedback to the power quality monitor engine 52 to indicate that the test is still process. The start test 236 is used by the meter display and communications functions to send foreground and communications priority measurement requests to the measurement engine 50. Should the measurement engine 50 receive a measurement request via the start test entry point 236, then the background test in process flag 124 will be cleared and the measurement engine running at higher priority flag (element 125 in FIG. 6) will be set at 237. When a measurement request has been completed and the requester has
read the instrumentation measurement, the measurement engine running at higher priority flag 125 is desirably cleared. The power quality monitor engine 52 will not issue a measurement request while the measurement engine running at higher priority flag 125 is set. If the flag 125 is not set, the power quality monitor engine 52 will restart its power quality monitor test if the background test in process flag 124 is cleared.

In a preferred embodiment, the measurement engine 120 will perform all actions specified up to the conversion routine specified by the last measurement record in the linked list. A measurement engine 120 will then set the measurement finished flag 123. When the measurement requester 111 observes that measurement finished is set, then the measurement engine 120 will be commanded to perform the last conversion routine and return the final measurement to the measurement requester 111. Other embodiments could complete all actions specified by the linked list before setting the measurement finished flag 123 provided that the final measurement result is left undisturbed until it has been read by the measurement requester 111.

A measurement record will preferably specify zero or one DSP conversion to be performed, one conversion routine to perform, and either the next record to be interpreted or an indicator that the end of the linked list has been reached. The engine 120 will continue operation at the next measurement record and so on until the “next measurement record” field contains a code indicating the end of the linked list.

The measurement records define what the measurement engine 120 must do to produce a requested measurement. Each measurement record is comprised of 24 bits. Bits 8 through 13 represent the pointer to the conversion function associated with a measurement record. Depending on the purpose of the conversion function, the measurement record fields may be interpreted in different ways by the measurement engine 120. In the preferred embodiment, the conversion functions cause the fields to be interpreted in four different ways designated as types 1, 2, 3, and 4 as shown in Table 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record type</th>
<th>Bit # 23–22</th>
<th>21–20</th>
<th>19–16</th>
<th>15–14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>type 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>type 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>type 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>type 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record type</th>
<th>Bit # 13–18</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>5–0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>type 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>type 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>type 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>type 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Measurement Record Field Descriptions

In a preferred embodiment, the measurement record fields have the following meaning. Other embodiments may utilize different field definitions, field sizes, and record sizes.

pointer to the next measurement record index

iterated measurement record index

Pointer to the first measurement record for an iterated measurement record sequence. This measurement record sequence will be executed for the number of specified iteration steps. After the last iteration then execution will continue at iterated measurement record index +1.

cgh_pхи

Indicates that the phase to be measured recorded should be modified before the DSP conversion is started.

cgh_pхи =

00 for no change
01 for select phase A
10 for select phase B
11 for select phase C

function_index

The index to the function record in the function table.

pre_conv

Indicates actions to be taken after DSP conversion values have been scaled but before the conversion routines run.

pre_conv =

00 for none
01 Clamp0_Low_VA
10 Clamp1_Low_VA
11 for none (spare)

const_index

Used as an index to the constant table and service thresholds table.

Phase dependent

The constant index is phase dependent if the bit is set. In the preferred embodiment, the phase dependent bit indicates to certain conversion functions that alternative actions may be taken depending on which service the DSP conversion was performed.

PreConversions

0 0 no transfers
0 1 dsp_sav->r1
1 0 r1->dsp_sav
1 1 dsp_sav->r0, 0->dsp_sav

Conversion Routines

The conversion routines are defined to operate on the data produced by DSP measurements. Thirty-one routines were used to meet the exemplary specifications for a preferred embodiment of the meter. These routines are specified by the appropriate value in the function_index field. The actual purpose of each conversion routine is not important to the understanding of the measurement engine except for the iterate routine. Table 5 lists some exemplary routines executable by the present invention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>func_index</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Read_Dummy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Scale Data0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Data0 by Data1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Do RMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Do RDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sum Square Data0 Data1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Expanded Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Service Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ArcCos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ArcTan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Pack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>pfService Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>LLArcCos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>LLArcTan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Find_Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expanded Function Index

Forty-nine additional routines, shown in Table 6, perform basic operations on the power tool working registers. They are provided to support new functions.

Table 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>expanded function code</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>EILRatio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Set LL Do Rms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>XOR Signs LI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>xor Signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Data1 by Data1 Set Signs LI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Data1 by Data1 Set LL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Set LL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Read Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Add Factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Get Freq Const</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Simul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>sqrt r0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Square data1 data1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>mag r0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>mag r1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Adjust Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E</td>
<td>divide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1F</td>
<td>Sealed Div</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>sqrt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Negate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Swap(r1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>r0 to disp sav</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>disp sav to r0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>disp sav to r1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>disp sav to temp1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>r1 to r0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>r0 to r1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>r0 to temp1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>r1 to r0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>r1 to r3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C</td>
<td>r1 to f2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>r1 to temp1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3E</td>
<td>r1 to disp sav</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3F</td>
<td>r3 to r1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>r3 to r0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>r3 to temp1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>r3 to f0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4D</td>
<td>r3 to r1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4E</td>
<td>temp1 to r0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4F</td>
<td>temp1 to r1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>f2 to r1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>sub (r1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5C</td>
<td>sub (r1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5D</td>
<td>sub (r3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5E</td>
<td>add (r3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5F</td>
<td>add r3 to r0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6A</td>
<td>add r3 to r0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td>add r3 to r0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6C</td>
<td>add r3 to r1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definitions

Data0

The DSP is capable of producing two conversion results in parallel. Data0 represents the primary raw value read from the DSP. Data0 is preferably multiplied by a conversion/calibration factor specific to the type of DSP measurement performed to obtain a calibrated value.

Data1

Represents the secondary raw value read from the DSP. Data1 is preferably multiplied by a conversion/calibration factor specific to the type of DSP measurement performed to obtain a calibrated value.

R0,R1

General working registers. The register contents will both be preserved across DSP measurements or while waiting for the display or communications routines to read a measurement engine result.

DPS SAVE

Working register defined specifically for use by measurement engine functions. The contents are preserved until cleared or overwritten by a power quality measurement engine function.

Iterate routine

The effect of this routine is to provide power tools with a REPEAT _ UNTIL capability. The iteration step, and any steps that it may chain to, will be performed and then the iterator will be decremented. This sequence will continue until the iterator decrements from 0 to 0FF. Operation will then continue at the next step following the iteration step.

Phase_Pointer, Phase_to_measure

The phase_to_measure and phase_pointer contents encode a phase designator, phase_a, phase_b, phase_c, end/begin, and a multiphase test flag. In general, if the multiphase test flag is set, then the measurement engine will automatically advance the phase designator in the phase_pointer to the next phase (in end/begin, A, B, C, end/begin order) supported by the service the meter is connected to before interpreting the measurement record indicated by measurement index. After the conversion routine has been executed, the measurement engine will again automatically advance the phase designator and interpret the measurement record. This advance and repeat sequence continues until the last service phase has been converted and the measurement engine advances the phase designator to the end/begin designator. If the phase designator specifies a phase that is not defined for the present service that the meter is connected to, then the measurement engine will not start and will return measurement started=false to the measurement requester.

In the preferred embodiment, measurement records are interpreted as shown in FIGS. 8A–8E. Either entry point start background test 235 or start test 236 are suitable for starting the measurement engine. The difference between the entry points is simply the implementation of the preferred embodiment’s priority method at 237. The ability to abort measurement requests in process is accomplished by insuring that the iteration capability is reset at 240 and the parameters measurement record number, convert_only and phase_to_measurement overwrite the respective internal
data storage areas measurement_index, do_convert_only at 250 and phase_pointer at 260. The entry point queue test at 270 is used by the measurement engine to process special instrumentation measurements such as the service_voltage and service_current. Just after 240 and before the queue_test entry point, the measurement engine tests the measurement record number for reserved code indicating the service_voltage check or the service_current check. These checks use additional processing to set up or check preconditions before the normal functions of the measurement engine can be performed. If either type of check is found, then the processing is performed which includes changing the measurement record number to specify a measurement sequence the measurement engine is capable of performing. Then control is returned to the measurement engine at queue_test. The measurement engine will be the requester and call itself using entry point queue test at 270.

Once the parameters passed from the measurement engine have been saved, processing continues as shown in FIG. 8B. If the save_R0 flag was received set at step 310, then the contents of working register R0 is transferred to the save_register at 320. The measurement record fields to be interpreted when the engine returns to the measurement engine in the measurement table indexed by the measurement_index. If the do_convert_only flag is set at 340, then the convert_can_run flag is set at 370, and the measurement engine clears the measurement finished flag and returns measurement_started=true at 3120. If do_convert_only was not set, then the change overrides the phase_pointer's phase designation. The phase_pointer will then be validated at step 360 to insure that the phase designated is supported by the service and phase. Note that in cases where the service has not been determined, the phases supported are determined to be those phases that the meter has been configured to be capable of measuring. If the phase designated was not supported by the service or auto advancing the phase designator resulted in the end/begin designation at 380, then the measurement engine returns measurement_started=false at 390 to the measurement requester. If the phase_pointer is designating a valid phase, then the conversion function index of the MR is tested at 3110 to determine if the MR is a type 2 (iterate) record. If the MR is a type 2, then convert_can_run is set at 370 and the measurement engine returns measurement_started=true to the measurement requester.

All other types of measurement records preferably utilize a DSP conversion to be started prior to returning at 3100. Note that while it is possible for a type 3 or type 4 measurement record to erroneously be processed at step 3100 (erroneous because type 3 and type 4 do not specify a DSP conversion), in practice this preferably will not occur provided the requester has set the convert_only flag. In the preferred embodiment, the DSP conversion is started as shown in FIG. 8C. FR denotes the function record, indexed by the func_index field in the MR, of the function table at 410. The FR in conjunction with the phase designator is the phase_pointer which represents a complete specification of which DSP conversion to start, what phase to perform the conversion on, how many line cycle pairs to perform the conversion for, what initialization data should be provided to the DSP, and what scale factors should be used to scale or calibrate the DSP conversion results to known units of measure. This information is used at 420 to start the DSP conversion. Once the conversion is started, the measurement_finished flag 123 is cleared at 430 and the measurement engine returns measurement_started=true at 440.

It can be seen from the above discussion that when the measurement engine returns to the measurement requester either no measurement was started, or the measurement was started and the measurement finished flag is cleared, and either the convert_can_run flag is set and the DSP was not started, or the measurement was started and convert_can_run is not set and DSP conversion was started.

The measurement engine responds to the measurement requester as discussed above to begin the instrumentation measurement. Once begun, the measurement engine executes independently from the measurement requester, as shown in FIG. 8D. Decision block 510 shows that the Do_measurement process is in an idle loop while measurement finished is true or while the DSP is converting. If neither case is true, then the phase_pointer is tested at 560 to determine if this was the last measurement to be performed to produce the instrumentation measurement. If the end_of_chain designator is found then the iteration_step is tested at 5130 to determine if an iterate instruction is in process. If not, then the measurement finished flag is set to notify the measurement requester that the instrumentation measurement is ready to be read. The measurement requester can read the instrumentation measurement by calling the read measurement function shown in FIG. 8E. If the measurement requester has obtained the result, the requester clears the measurement engine running at higher priority flag.

If it is determined that an iteration instruction is in process at 5130 after finding the end_of_chain at 560, the conversion function pointed to by the MR will be executed by the Run_Conversion process in FIG. 8E. After the conversion function has completed, the iterator value will be decremented. If that was the last iteration, then the measurement_index will be changed to the contents of iteration_step. If phase_Pointer indicates that this is a multiphase measurement, then the phase_pointer will be reset to the end/begin designator so that after the auto advance occurs at 360, the next phase measurement will be phase A.

Processing continues at 530 to begin the next iteration. The continue test is called at 550 to start the first measurement of the iterated sequence. After the continue test returns either the measurement was not started or it was started, either converted_can_run is true or false. If the measurement was not started then the MR corresponding to the measurement_index will not be executed. Instead, processing will continue at 5130. If the measurement was started and convert_can_run is false, then a DSP conversion was started and the measurement engine must wait for the conversion to complete at 5100. If convert_can_run is true, then a DSP conversion was not started. The conversion routine of the MR is executed by Run_Conversion_Function at 5110. After the conversion function has completed, the next_measurement_index of the MR is checked for the end_of_chain code. If the end_of_chain code is discovered, then processing begins again at 5130 as described above. Otherwise processing will continue at 5140.

At 5140, the next_convert_only flag of the MR is transferred to the convert_only flag and the next_measurement_index field of the MR is transferred to the measurement_index to select the next MR. Processing continues as 5170 as described above. At 560, if the next_measurement_index was not the end_of_chain code, then the conversion routine specified by the MR will be executed by calling the Run_Conversion process at 590. After the conversion routine has been has been completed, then processing continues at 5140 as described above.
At 520, if the phase pointer can be auto advanced to another phase supported by the service, then the conversion routine specified by the MR will be executed by a call to Run_Conversion at 540. After the conversion routine has been completed, the processing continues at 550 as described above.

The Run_Conversion routine flowchart is shown in FIG. 8E. The preconversions field of the MR processed in 610 provide general purpose register operations to all conversion functions. If the MR caused a DSP conversion to be performed at 620, the DSP conversion results are read and then scaled by the scale factors pointed to be the function record selected from the function table according to the func_index field of the MR at 630. The pre_conv function specified in the MR is then performed on the scaled data at 640. Lastly, the conversion routine specified by MR is called at 650 and then Run_Conversion returns to its caller. If at 620 it was determined that no DSP conversion had been performed, the processing continues at 650 as described above.

In a preferred embodiment, at least fourteen different power quality tests are programmed for concurrent operation. Referring back to FIG. 5, power quality tests (also referred to as background tests) can make use of the following resources: occurrence logs 86 as power quality tests. An occurrence log 86 consists of a logging flag, a binary occurrence counter, and an occurrence timer. Background warning start and stop times can be recorded in the event log 78 if the background test has an occurrence log 86 specified. The event codes are based on the occurrence log number associated with the background test. Each background warning condition can be programmed to assert the load control relay. The relay will deassert if no function within the meter has requested an assertion. The use of these power quality resources is explained in detail below.

FIGS. 9A and 9B show a context diagram showing the power quality test engine processing utilizing internal flags in accordance with the present invention. Power quality tests are checks of instrumentation values to determine unusual conditions on the electrical service which might indicate power quality, equipment failure, or tampering issues. These conditions are qualified against a magnitude threshold for a minimum duration. For example, voltage above the nominal voltage might damage electrical equipment, but short term transitions to this level have little effect and are relatively common. Thus, a magnitude and a minimum duration is typically used to qualify a condition as an abnormal condition. These qualified tests are referred to as power quality events. The magnitude thresholds can be minimum thresholds as well as maximum thresholds. Thresholds can also define acceptable or abnormal bands of operation. Because the meter can operate in a number of services and over a number of voltages, the thresholds for many of the monitors are best defined in terms of the service locked into the meter. Other tests need thresholds which are absolute numbers. Both methods are supported in the present invention.

The duration can be defined in terms of seconds or minutes. In accordance with the present invention, any number of quantities can be monitored for abnormal conditions within practical constraints imposed on the background processing and the desired time frame for repeating the tests. These quantities can be defined to a particular phase or can be treated generically for all meter phases.

The power quality tests are performed preferably one-at-a-time, in sequence. Quantities are requested of and obtained from the meter IC 14 over the IIC serial bus 36 using the instrumentation (power quality measurement) feature of the meter IC 14 when other higher priority operations are not using this feature of the meter IC 14. The display and communications routines have priority over the power quality monitors. Because the power quality measurements vary in length and the other routines have a higher priority than the power quality tests, time between monitor samples is not consistent or predictable as is described in more detail below.

When a power quality event is identified, a number of actions can be taken by the terms of the service locked into the event and accumulate the duration of the event. The meter can also set a warning which can appear on the meter's display. The meter can also set a warning which is definable by the utility, but only available through optical or remote communications. The meter can also operate a relay. The meter can also record the start and end time and date of the event in an event log. The exact action of the meter is defined by the meter configuration.

The operation and interactions of the power quality monitor can be better understood from the power quality monitor context diagram logs 78, as shown in FIGS. 10A and 10B, and the associated flow charts in FIGS. 11A–11I. Before the power quality tests are operational, several conditions are preferably satisfied. If these are not met, the meter continues to poll these conditions to determine when they have been met. The BACKGROUND ENABLED FLAG turns on or off the power quality test feature within the meter, and thus, this flag is set before the tests may be carried out by the meter. As previously stated, the thresholds for many of the power quality tests are defined in terms of the service locked into the meter, thus, the SERVICE LOCKED FLAG is also preferably set. Also, if power quality tests are enabled to run, the service is not locked, and service checks are not permitted to run (disabled), then the meter has not been configured correctly because the service cannot be locked-in.

In this condition, a warning should be set. In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention, this is the same warning as is displayed for active power quality monitor events (POWER QUALITY MONITOR WARNING FLAG). Other warnings are also within the scope of the invention. In FIG. 11C, the test mode is used when the meter is being verified, service conditions may be abnormal while the various tests are being run. Thus, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the power quality tests are disabled while in the test mode (the METER IN TEST MODE FLAG is set). It should be understood however, that the power quality tests may be enabled during test mode operation. Thus in a preferred embodiment, if any of these flags are set, the power quality tests do not run.

In addition, certain conditions can suspend power quality tests while higher priority routines are serviced. Because the power quality tests preferably use the same resources within meter IC 14 as the display or communications routines, the power quality monitor is suspended while measurements for these higher priority routines are performed (MEASUREMENT ENGINE RUNNING AT HIGHER PRIORITY FLAG) and while previous measurements are in-progress (BACKGROUND TEST IN PROCESS FLAG). If the measurement does not successfully complete, an error flag is set (MEASUREMENT ERROR FLAG), and the present invention advances to the next test. This is done so that a measurement error caused by improper configuration or equipment failure does not prevent other power quality monitors from running. When any pending measurements
have successfully completed (MEASUREMENT FINISHED FLAG) and the conditions previously described have been met, the power quality monitors are free to start a measurement sample.

Because the time between power quality measurements varies, an ELAPSED SECONDS count and FREE RUNNING MINUTES TIMER is used to provide the time base. The power quality test engine needs to know which test is the next to execute. This is controlled by a pointer to the next record, BKGND_REC, known as BKGND_INDEX. The monitor defines the measurement to make (MEASUREMENT BACKGROUND) and the phases to measure (PHASE_TO_MEASURE). Thus the POWER QUALITY MONITOR ENGINE knows the next measurement to perform. (The BKGND_INDEX is normally not 0.) The monitor engine starts the test by setting the BACKGROUND TEST IN PROCESS FLAG to true and clearing other flags that will be used in the engine. The monitor can be run on a single phase specified in the monitor record, on all valid phases performing the test on each phase, or on all valid phases performing the test once on the combination of the phases. The PHASE_CODE in the record which are intended to drive a display warning variable PHASE_TO_MEASURE and for a monitor which tests all valid phases individually, the MULTIPHASE TEST variable record is set to true. This information and the MEASUREMENT RECORD NUMBER are provided to the POWER QUALITY MEASUREMENT ENGINE to start the measurement. The POWER QUALITY MEASUREMENT ENGINE provides information on the status of the measurement by setting the MEASUREMENT ERROR FLAG. If the measurement did not start, the power quality monitor engine is set to BACKGROUND TEST IN PROCESS FLAG and the MEASUREMENT ERROR FLAG, and advances to the next power quality monitor.

Because the display warning code can be driven by multiple monitors, a state is needed to check if no events are active. In the present invention, the test index equal to 0 allows for this state. This state could have occurred at other (or multiple) test index numbers. When the test index equals 0, the power quality monitor engine assumes an event is active (BACKGROUND WARNED FLAG set). The assigned background warning flags are examined and if all of those which are intended to drive a display warning (POWER QUALITY MONITOR WARNING FLAG) are clear, the BACKGROUND WARNING FLAG is set. If the SERVICE CHECK ERROR FLAG is not set, the POWER QUALITY MONITOR WARNING flags are cleared. Otherwise, the POWER QUALITY MONITOR WARNING flag is set. The BKGND_INDEX is now set to 1 and the background warning flags are cleared and waiting to be set at the detection of an event.

When the measurement is complete, the high and low thresholds may need to be computed from the nominal identified in the monitor record. The quantity is compared using the test defined within that power quality monitor record against the raw or computed threshold by the POWER QUALITY MONITOR ENGINE. If the threshold test indicates a possible event (fails the test criteria), the event may need to be qualified against a minimum duration and warnings and other event logging may need to occur. The routine in this invention which determines when and what actions to take is the LOG_FAULT routine. The LOG_FAULT routine is passed thegue_CODE which defines if the high or low threshold was exceeded, the LOG_NUMBER which is the log number in the monitor record corresponding to threshold exceeded, and the WARNING_NUMBER which is the warning code in the monitor record corresponding to the threshold exceeded.

In the LOG_FAULT routine, if the minimum duration (ALARM TIME) in the monitor record is 0, the event does not need to be qualified against a minimum duration and can be immediately logged. This is done by checking the monitor record to determine if the POWER QUALITY MONITOR WARNING FLAG should be set (this causes a warning to be displayed on the meter LCD), and the BACKGROUND WARNING BIT is assigned in the monitor record is set. Based on the OWNER_CODE, either the USING_HIGH or USING_LOW variables are set to true. These variables are used to identify the owner of the log. If the LOG_NUMBER does not point to a real occurrence log, the LOG_FAULT routine can do no more, and thus, returns. If the LOG_NUMBER points to an occurrence log presently in use (LOGGING FLAG set), the routine need not do anything else, and thus, returns. If the LOG_NUMBER points to an occurrence log not presently in use, the routine increments the number of event (OCCURRENCE LOG), and sets the LOGGING FLAG. If the RELAY REQUEST FLAG is set in the monitor record, then the BKGND_REL flag is 0 and the monitor engine sets the relay flag (BK_RELAY). This assures that this log has set the relay flag (BK_RELAY) and assures that the BKGND_REL gets cleared if all the logs which can set the BKGND_REL have ceased to have active events. If event logging (time and date of occurrence in the event log) is enabled in the monitor record, the start condition for this event is generated by adding hex ‘80’ to the log number and sending this event code to the event log routine.

If the minimum duration (ALARM TIME) in the monitor record is not 0, the event is qualified against minimum duration. The units of the minimum duration (TIMEBASE), minimum duration value (ALARM TIME VALUE), and timer to use to time the minimum duration (ALARM TIMER) are also defined in the power quality monitor record. In the present embodiment, sixteen ALARM Timers are available from which to choose. Multiple monitors can use the same timer. However, if the monitor record does not reference a real alarm timer, this qualification cannot occur, and thus, the warnings for the event are set as described above, and the routine returns. If a real alarm timer is referenced, that timer is checked to see if it is 0 (not running). If it is 0, the alarm timer is assigned to the OWNER_CODE. The monitor activating the ALARM TIMER is maintained (OWNER_CODE) so that the POWER QUALITY MONITOR ENGINE knows which minimum duration time to compare the alarm timer’s ELAPSED TIME against and which monitor can terminate the timing of a condition. The timer is started using the timebase defined in the monitor record. When a timer is started, an ALARM TIMER STATUS is set indicating that the timer is in use. The routine can then return. If the alarm timer is running (timer not equal to zero), an event is presently being timed. If this event (OWNER_CODE) is not the same event as presently timed, the routine returns. Otherwise, based on the OWNER_CODE, either the USING_HIGH or USING_LOW variable is set to true. The alarm timer is tested. If the timer is still timing (LOGGING FLAG True), then the routine returns. If the timer is suspended, indicating that the timer was used to qualify an event but no occurrence log is being used, then the warnings for the event are set as described above and routine returns. If the timer has met the minimum duration requirement (Timed Out), the warnings for the event are set as described above and the LOG_NUMBER is checked. If the LOG_NUMBER points to an
occurrence log presently in use (LOGGING FLAG set) then the alarm timer has timed out at least once before and was reloaded to measure its largest possible time interval. In that case, the routine adds the largest interval to the timer to record the elapsed interval and then again restarts the alarm timer to measure its largest interval and select the minute timer as the time base, and returns. If the LOG_NUMBER points to an occurrence log not presently in use, the routine increments the number of events (OCCURRENCE LOG), and sets the LOGGING FLAG. If the RELAY REQUEST FLAG is set in the monitor record, then the BKGNDFLAG is set. Note that this log has set the relay flag (BK_RELAY) which only gets cleared if all the logs which can set the BKGNDFLAG have been cleared to have active events. If event logging (time and date of occurrence in the event log) is enabled in the monitor record, the start condition for this event is generated by adding hex '80' to the log number and sending this event code to the event log routine. The routine then increments the occurrence timer by the alarm time value specified in the monitor record minus the elapsed time in the minute timer, restart the alarm timer to measure its largest interval and select the minute timer as the time base, and returns. Thus this log will be flagged if the alarm timer was last restarted and the elapsed seconds since the minute timer last rolled over are added to the occurrence timer. If the relay request flag is set for the power quality monitor test, then the relay request flag corresponding to the LOG_TO_CLOSE will be cleared. If the relay request flags are determined to be cleared, then the Bkgnd relay flag will also be cleared to indicate that no power quality monitor test requires the relay associated with background test to be cleared. If event logging is enabled for the power quality monitor test, then an event code of hexSO is sent to the event log to record the transition from log open to log closed. Finally, Clear_Log returns.

Thus, in summary, if the condition does not persist for the minimum duration, the ALARM TIMER STATUS is cleared, and the event is not qualified and is treated as if the condition never existed. If the condition persists for the minimum duration, a new ALARM TIMER STATUS is set and a number of meter operations can occur depending on the configuration of the power quality monitor. If the monitor is configured to have an event drive one of the 14 OCCURRENCE LOGs, the OCCURRENCE COUNT is incremented in the appropriate OCCURRENCE LOG and the LOGGING STATUS is set for that log. When the event terminates, the ALARM TIMER elapsed time is added to the OCCURRENCE TIME and the logging status is cleared (NOT LOGGING STATUS). If the monitor is configured to drive the EVENT LOG, the start time and date of the event is recorded with the start EVENT CODE in the EVENT LOG. When the event terminates, the end time and date of the event is recorded with the end EVENT CODE in the EVENT LOG. The EVENT CODE is defined by the Power Quality monitor number so that the actual monitor causing the event is known, but other methods of assigning the EVENT CODE’s could be employed.) If the monitor is configured to drive a specific warning (ASSIGNED BACKGROUND WARNING FLAGS), that defined warning is set in the POWER QUALITY MONITOR WARNING FLAG for the duration of the event. This warning is cleared when the event ends. If the monitor is configured to drive the display warning for power quality monitor events (BACKGROUND WARNING FLAG), this flag is set for the duration of the event. This warning is cleared when all events end which are driving this warning. If the monitor is configured to drive the load control relay, the BKGND_RELAY FLAG is set for the duration of the event. This flag is cleared when the event terminates. The relay drive routine monitors this flag and handles the actual driving of the relay. The power quality monitors can configure any combination of these operations.

The meter may be programmed to increment event counters, totalize event times, set warning indicators, latch relays, and logged event start and stop times when a measurement fails a test. The tests may be further qualified by timers such that a measurement fails a test for a programmable amount of time (e.g., 1 second to 60 minutes) before the
programmed action occurs. Such parameters are stored in the EEPROM 35 in the power quality test table shown in FIG. 3. The power quality test table comprises a preselected set of records. Each power quality test definition specifies the electrical measurement to perform, the phase or phases to test, the type of comparison to perform after the measurement, the value to compare the measurement against, the amount of time that the test must fail before an action is taken, and the action to take in the event that a measurement exceeds a threshold. In a preferred embodiment, the records comprise the following field descriptions:

Field 1: Comparison test number—This field is a single index that specifies which of several possible types of comparison tests to perform on the value measured during a given background test and the threshold values specified by the background record.

Field 2: Specifies actions to take if a test against a low threshold fails.

Field 3: Specifies actions to take if a test against a high threshold fails.

Field 4: Initial alarm time value—Specifies the time that a warning should preferably exist before a failure is declared. If the value is zero then no time delay will be in effect and warning conditions are consequently logged immediately upon detection.

Field 5: Timer number—Specifies the alarm timer to be used if the initial alarm time value is non-zero.

Field 6: Low log number—Specifies which occurrence log to use to log low warnings.

Field 7: High log number—Specifies which occurrence log to use to log high warnings.

Field 8: This field provides the raw data used to compute a high threshold value to test against a background measurement. The field is interpreted as either an Embedded Normal value, an Embedded Percent value or a Percent Above Nominal value depending on the value of the Nominal Code in field 10.

Field 9: This field provides the raw data used to compute a low threshold value to test against a background measurement. The field is interpreted as either an Embedded Normal value, an Embedded Percent value or a Percent Below Nominal value depending on the value of the Nominal Code in field 10.

Field 10: Specifies the Nominal Code and the Phase Code designating either phase A, B or C which are described in more detail below.

Field 11: DSP measurement record index—Specifies the measurement record number needed for the background test to be performed. An index of 0 indicates the end of the background test list if fewer than maximum background tests are defined. Setting any background test index causes that background test and all following tests not to be performed. The background test sequence will start again at test 1. Note that setting DSP Test Index to 0 is one way to disable background tests.

Referring back to FIG. 5, the power quality engine 52 performs the designated comparison test after receiving the measurement 60 from the measurement engine 50. The returned measurement is then tested in accordance with the comparison tests specified by the power quality test record utilizing service specific thresholds 70 which are referenced by the power quality test records. The following lists a few exemplary power quality tests and describes how these tests utilize service threshold information.

PO Test 1: Abnormal service voltage—Defined by the Service Test (repeated below)

Measured voltage phase angles outside a +/-15 degree nominal voltage angle band; and

Duration: Either condition or combination of conditions for greater than 60 seconds.

PO Test 2: Abnormally low voltage

Measured voltage less than 6% of nominal service voltage on any phase.

Duration: Condition on any phase or combination of phases for greater than 60 seconds.

PO Test 3: Abnormally high voltage

Measured voltage greater than 6% of nominal service voltage on any phase.

Duration: Condition on any phase or combination of phases for greater than 60 seconds.

PO Test 4: Abnormal service current (power factor and reverse power)—Defined by Service Current Test (repeated below)

Leading or lagging measured power factor less than 0.25 on single phase and wye services, and 0.00 on delta services.

Negative measured power (current) on any phase.

Duration: Either condition or combination of conditions for greater than 5 minutes.

PO Test 5: Abnormally low service current—Defined by the Service Current Test

Measured current less than 0.1% of class current on any phase, but not ALL phases.

Duration: Condition on any phase or combination of phases for greater than 5 minutes.

PO Test 6: Abnormal power factor

Measured Power factor less than 0.45 leading or lagging on any phase on single phase and wye services, and 0.2 on delta services.

Duration: Condition on any phase or combination of phases for greater than 5 minutes.

PO Test 7: Excess 2nd harmonic current

Measured 2nd harmonic current greater than 0.5 amperes on any phase.

Duration: Condition on any phase or combination of phases for greater than 15 minutes.

PO Test 8: Excess total harmonic current distortion

Measured total harmonic distortion greater than 30% of fundamental on any phase.

Duration: Condition on any phase or combination of phases for greater than 60 seconds.

PO Test 9: Excess total harmonic voltage distortion

Measured total harmonic distortion greater than 30% of fundamental on any phase.

Duration: Condition on any phase or combination of phases for greater than 60 seconds.

Based on the outcome of the specified power quality test, one or more power quality resources 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88 in FIG. 5 are acted on by the power quality engine as is described in detail below. The individual power quality monitor comparison tests specify how fields 6, 7, 8 and 9 are used. In general, low log numbers indicate the log to use if a test against a low threshold fails. Likewise, the high log numbers are used when testing measurements against high thresholds. This implementation allows a single measurement to be tested against one or more thresholds but defining a single test. With a single log the statistics about the times the test failed are known. However, for multiple threshold tests, information about which threshold was crossed more often or for longer periods of time is preferably not delineated. The use of two logs supports band type tests where a measurement may be either between two thresholds or
outside two thresholds. This allows outcome statistics to be collected for each threshold.

Each power quality test is capable of selecting one value from the service thresholds table shown in FIG. 3. The value selected is considered to be a nominal value to be used to create test thresholds. High and low thresholds are computed by scaling the nominal value up and down by the high and low threshold percent values which are preferably labeled Raw_High_Threshold and Raw_Low_Threshold in the power quality test table. The service thresholds table has been implemented as packed array of words or records. The array is indexed by the Nominal_Table_Index. The Nominal_Table_Index is stored in the Nominal_Code_sub-field of field 10.

As an example, consider a nominal code represented by a five-bit value. If the five bits are considered to represent values from 000 to 111 then: values in the range of 000 to 111 are considered to be word boundary indices into the service thresholds table; the value 111 is used to specify that the special six byte value bk_factor should be used as the nominal value; the value 110 is used to specify that the high and low thresholds should be generated by treating the high and low threshold percent values as packed word values for the high and low thresholds that each represent the range of 0 to 100 percent; the value 110 is used to specify that the high and low thresholds should be generated by treating the high and low threshold percent values as packed word values for the high and low thresholds that each represent the range of 0 to 100 percent; in a preferred embodiment computer stores the thresholds using forty-eight bit arithmetic with sixteen bits of resolution to the right of the binary point.

Field 10 also contains a three bit sub-field called Phase_Code to indicate the phases the power quality test shall test. The values of the Phase_Code field are defined as follows: Phase_Code=0...7

0=Test Phase A measurement
1=Test Phase B measurement
2=Test Phase C measurement
3=Measure all service phases and perform one test on the result
7=Test all service phases one at a time.

The power quality monitor engine is responsible for interpreting the Phase_Code field and constructing correct measurement requests to the power quality measurement engine. Referring back to FIGS. 10A and 10B, each power quality test will be in a state that depends on whether or not an alarm timer is allocated to the test, whether or not an occurrence log is allocated to the test, and on the condition being monitored relative to programmable test limits.

If no alarm timer or occurrence log is assigned to a power quality test, then the power quality test will either be in state S1 or S2. The power quality test will be state S1 as long as the measurement defined for the test passes the test. If a measurement defined for the test fails, then the test the warning bit assigned to the power quality test will be set, the power quality monitor warning flag will be set if programmably enabled for the power quality test, and the power quality test will be in state S2. The power quality test will remain in state S2 until the measurement defined for the test passes and the power quality test returns to state S1. During the transition from state S1, the warning bit assigned to the power quality test will be cleared.

If no alarm timer is assigned to a given power quality test but an occurrence log is assigned, then the power quality test will either be in state S3 or S4. The power quality test will be in state S3 as long as the measurement defined for the test passes the test. While in state S3, if a measurement defined for the test fails, then the binary occurrence log will be set, the power quality monitor warning flag will be set if programmably enabled for the power quality test, the occurrence log logging flag will be set, the binary occurrence log will be incremented, a relay request flag corresponding to the occurrence log number will be set, if programmably enabled, to request the load control relay be actuated, a power quality monitor start event code corresponding to the occurrence log number will be sent to the event log if programmably enabled, and the power quality test will be state S4. The power quality test will remain in state S4 until the measurement defined for the test passes and the power quality test returns to state S3. During the transition from state S4 to S3, the warning bit assigned to the power quality test will be cleared, the relay request flag corresponding to the occurrence log number will be cleared, if programmably enabled, to indicate that this power quality test does not require actuation of the load control relay and the occurrence log logging flag will be cleared.

If an alarm timer is assigned to a given power quality test but an occurrence log is not assigned, then the power quality test will either be in state S5, S6 or S7. The power quality test will be in state S5 as long as the measurement defined for the test passes the test. If a measurement defined for the test fails the test, then the alarm timer assigned to the power quality test will be programmed with the alarm time value defined for the power quality test. The power quality test will transition to state S6 and shall remain in this state until either the measurement defined for the test passes or until the alarm timer times out. If the measurement for the test passes, then the alarm timer will be disabled and the power quality test will return to state S5. If the alarm timer times out while in state S6, then the warning bit assigned to the power quality test will be set, the power quality monitor warning flag will be set if programmably enabled for the power quality test, the alarm timer will be disabled, and the power quality test will transition to state S7. The power quality test will remain in state S7 until the measurement defined for the test passes and the power quality test transitions to state S5. During the transition from states S7 to S5, the warning bit assigned to the power quality test will be cleared and the power quality monitor warning flag will be cleared if programmably enabled for the power quality test.

If an alarm timer and an occurrence log is assigned to a given power quality test, then the power quality test will either be in state S5, S6 or S10. The power quality test will be in state S8 as long as the measurement defined for the test passes the test. If a measurement defined for the test fails the test, then the alarm timer assigned to the power quality test will be programmed with the alarm time value defined for the power quality test. The power quality test will transition to state S9 and shall remain in this state until either the measurement defined for the test passes or until the alarm timer times out. If the measurement for the test passes, then the alarm timer will be disabled and the power quality test will return to state S8. If the alarm timer times out while in state S8, then the warning bit assigned to the power quality test will be set, the power quality monitor warning flag will be set if programmably enabled for the power quality test, the occurrence log logging flag will be set, the binary occurrence log will be incremented, the relay request flag corresponding to the occurrence log number will be sent to the event log if programmably enabled, the alarm time value will be added to the occurrence timer, the elapsed seconds of the free running minute timer will be subtracted from the occurrence timer, the alarm timer will be restarted to measure its maximum elapsed time (sixty minutes in the preferred embodiment) using the free running minute timer as the alarm clock, the power quality test transitions to state S10. The power quality test will remain in state S10 until the measurement defined for the test passes or
until the alarm timer times out. If the alarm timer times out while the power quality test is in state s10, then the maximum elapsed time that the alarm timer has measured will be added to the occurrence timer and the alarm timer will be reloaded to measure its maximum elapsed time. If the measurement passes the test while the power quality test is in state s4, then the power quality test transitions to state s5. During the transition from state s10 to s5, the warning bit assigned to the power quality test will be cleared, the relay request flag corresponding to the occurrence log number will be cleared, if programmably enabled, to indicate that this power quality test does not require actuation of the load control relay, the power quality monitor warning flag will be cleared if programmably enabled for the power quality test, the elapsed time since the alarm timer was reprogrammed will be added to the occurrence timer.

The purpose of subtracting the elapsed seconds of the free running minute timer from the occurrence timer during the transition to state s10 and later adding the elapsed seconds of the free running minute timer to the occurrence timer during the transition to state s5 is to enable the use of a single free running minute timer as a time base to multiple alarm timers running asynchronously with respect to each other while maintaining the time measurement accuracy and resolution of the free running minute timer's timescale.

C. Service Identification

FIG. 12 is a flow diagram showing the steps carried out by the microcontroller 16 in accordance with the present invention to automatically and electronically identify the service. At 1000, the DSP outputs which drive the phase potential indicators (FIG. 2) are to check. In a preferred embodiment, phases having an associated output with a high signal level are determined to be powered. Information representing the meter element configuration is preferably stored in a pre-defined memory location in the EEPROM 35. In a preferred embodiment, information indicating whether the meter must utilize all of the elements is also stored in a memory location in the EEPROM 35. The meter element configuration refers to how many and which phase voltages and currents the meter is capable of measuring. At step 1002, the microcontroller 16 checks the meter element configuration data stored in the EEPROM 35 to determine whether the maximum meter elements must be used or whether a lesser number of elements can be used. If the maximum meter elements must be used, then at 1006 the microcontroller 16 determines whether the correct phases are available, i.e., the phases present match the phases identified in the meter element data. If the correct phases are not available, no service is determinable.

If the maximum number of elements is not required as determined at 1002, then the microcontroller 16 checks if valid configurations such as single phase on phase A, two-phase (present on phases A and C), and three-phase services at 1004. Other configurations are preferably deemed invalid.

If no service is determinable or if the configuration is invalid, then at 1008 the unknown service code, e.g., "NONE," is stored in RAM in connection with the service type status information which is referred to herein as the service byte.

At step 1010, the microcontroller 16 determines whether the service is a single phase, two-phase, or three-phase service. When the service is two-phase service, the angle for Vca (the phase angle between phase C and phase A) is measured. When the service is a three-phase service, phase angles Vba (the phase angle between phase B voltage and phase A voltage) and Vca are measured. In a preferred embodiment, the voltage phase angles are measured using a DSP technique referenced to zero-crossing of Va.

As discussed above in connection with FIG. 3, a service angle table is stored in the EEPROM 35. The service angle table, which is described in detail below, generally includes records with a service byte and nominal phase angles for phase C and B. The service byte is the first byte in the service record and defines the services to which the entry applies. For example, the service byte format may be represented as follows:

Bit 7: spare—not used.
Bit 6: cba—defines that cba rotation is a valid rotation.
Bit 5: abc—defines that abc rotation is a valid rotation.
Bit 4: 4wd—4wd service; 1=4WD, 0=not 4WD.
Bit 3: 4wy—4wy service; 1=4Wy, 0=not 4Wy.
Bit 2: 3wy—3wy service; 1=3Wy, 0=not 3Wy.
Bit 1: 3wd—3wd service; 1=3WD, 0=not 3WD.
Bit 0: 1p—single phase service; 1=1P, 0=not 1P.

The nominal phase angles are preferably in 2-byte format represented in binary in 0.01 degree increments. The microcontroller 16 at step 1016 searches the service phase table record-by-record for the first service that includes the measured voltage angles. This process is described in detail below. If a service phase angle record is found for the measured phase angles at step 1020, the service byte is defined to identify the phase rotation and service type corresponding to that record. Otherwise, no known service is found, e.g., service byte="NONE," as shown at step 1008.

When the service byte has been defined, either because the service was determined to be a single phase service at step 1010 or through the table search technique described in connection with steps 1016 and 1020, the service test continues at step 1018. At step 1018, each phase voltage that is present is measured. Using these measurements, the microcontroller 16 searches the service voltage table 118 (described in connection with FIG. 3) at step 1022 for a record that includes the service type identified by the service byte and each measured phase voltage. In a preferred embodiment, the records in the service voltage table 118 may include a service definition byte identifying possible services and scaling information, information identifying the nominal service voltage, information identifying the programmable potential indicator threshold to be used with the service, and information identifying each of the maximum and minimum tolerances with respect to the nominal service voltage.

Once the phase voltages are measured, the records are searched to determine whether the measured voltages are within the defined tolerance range for the phase and service type. If the voltages are valid, as determined at step 1024, then the nominal voltage will be returned. The service voltage record search must repetitively find a service voltage record that matches the service designated by the service byte. The high and low tolerances corresponding to the nominal voltage in the service voltage record are preferably based on a minimum and maximum percent of the service voltage. All voltages for the service preferably fall within the thresholds. Note that some service types may require that phase A, B and C limits be scaled. The voltage test procedure as well as the fields of the service voltage table records is described in more detail below.

If a voltage test record is not identified at step 1024 as a matching record, then the service byte is defined as "NONE" and the service nominal voltage is set to zero at step 1008.

If a voltage test record is identified at step 1024, then the service byte and service voltage identified by the matching record is returned and stored in RAM.

FIG. 13 is a detailed flow diagram showing an exemplary service phase table search procedure in accordance with the present invention. This procedure is best illustrated by reference to the Service Phase Table definition set forth below:
The phase angle tolerances are preferably stored in EEPROM in advance as indicated. The record definition includes a "service information byte" which in the preferred embodiment includes the bit definition as indicated above. Specifically, bit 7 is empty, bit 6 defines a cba phase rotation, bit 5 defines an abc phase rotation, and bits 4-0 define different service types. Each record in the service phase table includes a different service information byte.

Referring back to FIG. 13, the first record in the service angle table is checked at 1032 to determine whether the service information byte includes an abc rotation bit. If so, the nominal phase angle range is then computed at 1034 for phase C and phase B if those phase are present. The phase angle computations are preferably carried out by adding the tolerance specified for the appropriate phase to the phase angle specified in the record to obtain the upper angle limit for the phase and subtracting the tolerance from the phase angle specified to obtain the lower limit for the phase. For example, referring to the Service Angle Table above, assume the tolerance to be 25 deg. Considering the first listed record, to determine the phase angle range to compare the measured phase angle for phase C, the following computations are carried in hex:

- Upper limit = 75 + 30 = 0x3D (decimal 101) + 0x3F (decimal 63) = 0x07E (decimal 126)
- Lower limit = 75 - 25 = 0x3D (decimal 101) - 0x1F (decimal 31) = 0x21E (decimal 59)

The upper limit is 126 deg and the lower limit is 59 deg. Comparing the measured phase angles at 1036, the first service bit=1 going from left to right in the service information byte is identified as the service at 1038. For example, considering the first record in the Service Angle Table above, the first service bit in the service information byte corresponds to a 3-wire delta type service. The service byte is then updated to define the 3-wire delta service at step 1040. A pointer is then preferably stored to identify the service angle record at step 1042.

If the measured phase angles were not determined to be within the computed ranges at 1036, then the next record with an abc rotation bit in the service information bit is located by carrying out steps 1044, 1046, and 1032. Therefore, each record with an abc rotation bit is checked for matching phase angle measurements until either a match is found and the service defined, or until no more records are available to check as determined at step 1046. When no more records are available, the cba rotation bit of the service information byte of each record is similarly checked via steps 1044, 1046, and 1048. If a record with a cba rotation bit includes angles ranges that matches the measured ranges as determined at step 1036, then the service bit is located at step 1038, the service defined at step 1040, and a pointer set to the record at 1042. If no record with a cba rotation bit matches the measured phase angles as determined at 1036, then the service in the service byte is defined as "NONE" at 1052.

FIG. 14 is a detailed flow diagram showing an exemplary service voltage table search procedure in accordance with the present invention. This procedure is best illustrated by reference to the Service Voltage Table definition set forth below:
As indicated above, each record of the Service Voltage Table preferably includes a 1-byte field referred to as the voltage service byte, a 2-byte field representing the nominal voltage for the service, a 2-byte field representing the programmable potential indicator threshold to be used in connection with the service, a 2-byte field representing a factor (>1) to multiply the nominal voltage to arrive at the maximum threshold on the nominal voltage range for the service, and a 2-byte field representing a factor (<1) to multiply the nominal voltage to arrive at the minimum threshold of the nominal voltage range for the service. The voltage service byte preferably includes the following bit definition:

- Bits 7, 6, 5: 100=ab.5=scale A and B voltages by 0.5
- 100=ab.5=scale C voltage by 0.5
Each measured phase voltage is then compared to the
computed nominal voltage range associated with the same
phase at step 1064 to determine whether or not the measured
phase voltages “match,” i.e., fall within the nominal range.
If the measured voltages match the nominal ranges, then the
service byte is defined as the current service definition at
step 1066 and a pointer is set to the current service voltage record
at step 1068. If the measured voltages do not match the
nominal voltage ranges then, the procedure continues by
checking whether or not more records are available in the
service voltage table at 1070. The same steps are carried out
for each record until either a valid service is found or until no
more records exist to check in the service voltage table.
If no valid service is identified and all of the records have
been checked the service byte returns “NONE” to indicate
that no valid service was identified by the service test at
1072.

As discussed above, the power quality tests use service-
dependent thresholds and other data. For this reason, it is
important that the correct service definition be locked into
the meter. It should be understood that power quality testing
and flicker processing cannot be enabled until a valid service
is identified and locked.

FIG. 15 is a state diagram showing the states of the service
locking procedure according to the present invention. As
shown in FIG. 15, there are basically two states, locked and
unlocked, each with a number of conditional state defini-
tions. These conditional definitions may include whether or
not the service test is enabled or disabled, whether or not
power quality testing is enabled or disabled, whether or not
flicker processing is enabled or disabled, whether or not a
valid service has been defined, and whether or not manual or
autolock is defined. When any of these conditional state
definitions change, a transition to a different state is trig-
gered. The receipt of a lock or unlock command may also
result in a transition from one state to another.

At state 1100, shown in FIG. 15, the meter is in an
unlocked state with service check enabled, manual lock
specified, both power quality testing and flicker processing
are disabled, and no valid service has yet been identified.
Upon detection of a valid service, the state 1100 transitions
to state 1104. As is described below, the valid service is
preferably displayed on the meter display. If the displayed
service is the anticipated or an acceptable service, the meter
installer or technician may depress the demand reset key to
manual lock the service. If the demand reset key is
depressed, the state transitions from state 1104 to state 1102
and this locks the service.

A command to unlock the service is generated. If an
unlock command is received while in state 1102, the meter
then transitions back to state 1100. The meter may also be
reconfigured through programming changes to provide the
aforementioned autolock feature. If the meter is in state 1102
and is reconfigured to autolock the service, then the service is
unlocked and the meter transitions to state 1112. In this
state, if a valid service is defined by the service test, that
service is automatically locked and the meter transitions to
state 1110. If no valid service is identified or if an unlock
command is received while in state 1110, then the meter
returns to state 1112.

The service test may be disabled through programming
changes. If the service test is disabled while the meter is in
state 1102 or state 1110, the meter transitions to state 1108.
While in state 1108, the service is locked and only the receipt
of an unlock command will trigger a transition to a different
state. When an unlock command is received, the meter
transitions from state 1108 to state 1106. If the service is then
locked via reprogramming, the meter returns to state 1108.

FIG. 16 is a state diagram for an exemplary service test
procedure and display processing in accordance with the
present invention. As discussed above, various parameters
and/or tests may be selected for display in the normal or
alternate display modes. Each selected item is measured,
tested, etc. and displayed for a predefined period of time. In
a preferred embodiment, the items displayed one at a
time in a fixed sequential sequence. Therefore, each item
selected for display in the normal mode is sequentially
processed and displayed while in the normal display pro-
cessing state 1200.

If a service test is specified as one of the selected items,
a transition to the service test processing state 1202 is made
when the service test becomes the current item in the display
sequence. In a preferred embodiment, the meter displays the
message “SYS_...” on the LCD while in the service test
processing state. If a valid service is found and autolocked,
the service test procedure transitions to the locked display
state 1204 and a display timer is started. In a preferred
embodiment, the phase rotation, service voltage, locked
status, and service type are displayed for the predefined
period of time. As shown in FIG. 16, the phase rotation was
“ABC”, the service voltage was “120”, the status “L”
indicates that the service was locked, and the service “1P”
refers to single phase. When the display timer indicates that
the predefined display period has elapsed, i.e., the display
timer “times out”, the display procedure returns to normal
display processing state 1200.

If a valid service is found but manual lock is desired, the
service test procedure transitions to the display state 1210
and a display timer is started. During the display state 1210,
the service may be displayed and may be manually locked by
depressing the demand reset button. In a preferred
embodiment, the phase rotation, the service voltage, and the
service type are displayed on the meter display. If the
demand reset button is depressed, the service is locked, and the service test procedure transitions to the locked display state L204 with an “L” preferably displayed in connection with the service definition. If the displayed service is not locked while in display state L210 before the display timer times out, the service test procedure transitions to the service test processing state L214 until a valid service is identified and locked. Once the valid service is locked, i.e., autolock is enabled, the service test procedure transitions from the service test processing state L214 to the locked display state L204 and restarts the display timer. If a valid service is identified during the service test processing state L214, but requires manual locking, then the service test procedure transitions back to the display state L210.

If no valid service is found while in either service test processing states L202, L214, the display timer is started and the service test procedure transitions to the error display state L206. In a preferred embodiment, the service error code “ser 555000” is displayed and locked on the meter.

If the alternate mode is invoked during the normal display sequence, for example, by depressing the ALT button, the items designated for the alternate display mode are displayed and are displayed during the alternate scroll processing states L208, L212. If the alternate scroll is invoked after an invalid service determination is made or when the ALT button is depressed before transitioning to the service test processing state L202, then the service test procedure reinvokes the service test when the last alternate scroll item has been cleared from the display in the alternate scroll processing state L208. Similarly, if the alternate mode is invoked during the display state L210 or the service test processing state L214, the alternate scroll processing state L212 is entered and completed. At the end of the alternate scroll sequence, the service test may be reinvoked if no prior valid service was identified. However, if a valid service was identified prior to the alternate scroll processing, then service may be locked and the display timer reset.

Another feature of the present invention is the provision of flicker detection and indication capabilities. To this end, it will be recalled that the meter IC 14 provides phase A, phase B, and phase C outputs. These outputs are indicative of the presence of voltage on each of the respective phases. Because meter IC 10 is intended for a wide range of uses, i.e., capable of use over a wide range of voltages, the voltage levels on phases A, B and C vary from use to use. Accordingly, each aspect of the present invention is the provision of programmable threshold comparators in the meter IC 14. Such comparators can be programmed with the threshold appropriate for a given nominal service voltage. So long as the voltage remains above the programmable threshold voltage, the signals output from the DSP changes, thereby providing an indication to the microcontroller IC 16.

As shown in FIG. 17, the microcontroller IC 16 determines at every predefined period (preferably defined as an executive clock pulse) the status of the phase A, B and C outputs to determine the presence of a “glitch.” A glitch will be “announced” by the presence of a potential (PI) Warning at L220. For every executive clock pulse, a determination is made if a glitch is present. If a glitch indication is present, a further determination is made to determine if the glitch indication is indeed a glitch and not an actual power outage. To this end, a glitch counter is provided which is incremented at L224 for each consecutive executive clock pulse during which a warning was also present. If the glitch counter is above a glitch start value (a minimum number of counts necessary for a legitimate glitch, stored at L226 and determined at L222) and less than a glitch end value (a number of counts above which a glitch is in fact a power outage, stored at L228 and determined at L222), the glitch counter is increased by one, a log warning is generated, and a log duration is generated. This operation can be duplicated for each phase.

Once a glitch has been determined, a warning and a warning flag are produced at L230 and L232. These warnings are used to flash indicators L27, L29 and L31 on LCD 30 (FIG. 1), depending on whether a glitch is present on phase A, B or C. Such warnings are also used to cause the voltages being displayed on display 30 to flash ON and OFF.

Table 7 shows exemplary meter formulae for use with the present invention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wait formulae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-3: ( \text{Var} = \frac{1}{V_{\text{rms}}^2} \times \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} V_{i} \right) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2: ( \text{Var} = \frac{1}{V_{\text{rms}}^2} \times \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} V_{i} \right) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1: ( \text{Var} = \frac{1}{V_{\text{rms}}^2} \times \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} V_{i} \right) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-0: ( \text{Var} = \frac{1}{V_{\text{rms}}^2} \times \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} V_{i} \right) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-: ( \text{Var} = \frac{1}{V_{\text{rms}}^2} \times \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} V_{i} \right) )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Subscripts refer to the phase of the inputs. Subscripts refer to the A/D cycle in which the sample is taken. Va for -7 applications is actually line to neutral.

RMS measurements are made over one line cycle and preferably begin at the zero crossing of each voltage. where the subscripts are associated with the I terms of Watts and VAs and the calculation is performed every cycle as shown below:

\[ \text{VAR} = \frac{1}{V_{\text{rms}}^2} \times \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} V_{i} \right) \]
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continued

For purposes of the above formulae, the following definitions apply:
- 2 means a 2 element in 3 wire delta application;
- 3 means a 3 element in 4 wire wye application;
- 8 means a 2½ element in 4 wire wye application;
- 5 means a 2 element in 3 wire delta application; and
- 7 is a 2½ element in 4 wire delta application.

While the invention has been described and illustrated with reference to specific embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that modification and variations may be made without departing from the principles of the invention as described hereinabove.

What is claimed:

1. A meter for metering electrical energy provided to the meter via a service type, comprising:
   - means for receiving a measurement request;
   - memory means for storing a plurality of data in data tables;
   - processor means for performing at least one function responsive to said measurement request and said data in said data tables, and generating output information responsive to said measurement request and said data in said data tables; and
   - output means for outputting said output information in accordance with a predetermined priority scheme.

2. The meter of claim 1, wherein said processor means comprises a first processor and a second processor, and said measurement request is made by one of said first processor and said second processor.

3. The meter of claim 1, wherein said memory means is an EEPROM.

4. The meter of claim 1, wherein said means for receiving said measurement request is one of an optical communications external source and an electronic external source.

5. The meter of claim 1, wherein said measurement request comprises one of a display measurement request, a power quality measurement request, and an external communications request.

6. The meter of claim 5, wherein each of said display measurement request, said power quality measurement request, and said external communications request has an associated priority, said priority of said external communications request being greater than said priority of said display measurement request and said priority of said power quality measurement request.

7. The meter of claim 1, wherein said means for receiving said measurement request receives said measurement request one of serially and sequentially.

8. The meter of claim 1, wherein said plurality of data tables comprises a system current test table for testing the system current, a service angle table, a service voltage table, and a phase tolerance table.

9. The meter of claim 8, wherein said system current test table comprises a plurality of system current thresholds for a plurality of different service types.

10. The meter of claim 8, wherein said service angle table comprises phase angle information for a plurality of different service types, and said service voltage table comprises a voltage, at least one tolerance, and a potential indicator threshold for said plurality of different service types.

11. The meter of claim 8, further comprising means to determine said service type, and a thresholds table for receiving said voltage corresponding to said service type from said system current test table, said service angle table, and said service voltage table.

12. The meter of claim 8, further comprising a power quality test table for storing a result of a power quality comparison test performed by said meter.

13. The meter of claim 12, wherein said power quality test table further comprises information referencing a measurement record for said result of said power quality comparison test.

14. The meter of claim 13, wherein said information is a pointer to said measurement record.

15. The meter of claim 12, wherein said power quality test table further comprises information referencing information in a thresholds table for use in said power quality comparison test.

16. The meter of claim 8, further comprising a comparison test table for storing a plurality of comparison tests.

17. The meter of claim 8, further comprising a measurement table for storing a plurality of measurement records.

18. The meter of claim 17, wherein said measurement table comprises information referencing a record in a measurement function table.

19. The meter of claim 8, further comprising a measurement function table for identifying a digital signal processor (DSP) function to be performed.

20. The meter of claim 19, wherein said measurement function table comprises information referencing a record in a constant table.

21. The meter of claim 20, wherein said record comprises one of an initialization constant and a calibration constant.

22. The meter of claim 19, wherein said measurement function table further comprises information referencing a
record in a conversion table which specifies at least one computation to be performed with said DSP function.

23. The meter of claim 1, wherein said function comprises one of display and test selection, display and test parameter adjustment, test definition, and measurement definition.

24. The meter of claim 23, wherein said display and test selection is for inserting a plurality of predetermined byte sequences into a table to display a plurality of predetermined measurement quantities and for enabling said meter to perform a plurality of predetermined power quality tests, each power quality test comprising a predetermined number of steps.

25. The meter of claim 24, further comprising a step counter for counting said predetermined number of steps.

26. The meter of claim 25, wherein an indicator is activated if said step counter exceeds a predetermined threshold.

27. The meter of claim 23, wherein said test parameter adjustment is for changing the number of line cycle pairs over which an electrical measurement is performed.

28. The meter of claim 23, wherein said test parameter adjustment is for modifying voltage, current, power factor, and time thresholds of the tests that are performed.

29. The meter of claim 23, wherein said test definition is for creating at least one power quality test by combining a plurality of test parameter thresholds.

30. The meter of claim 23, wherein said measurement definition is for creating electrical measurements by combining DSP functions.

31. The meter of claim 1, wherein said at least one function is selectable.

32. The process of claim 1, wherein said plurality of data tables comprises a system current test table for testing the system current, a service angle table, a service voltage table, and a phase tolerance table.

33. The process of claim 32, wherein said system current test table comprises a plurality of system current thresholds for a plurality of different service types.

34. The process of claim 32, wherein said service angle table comprises phase angle information for a plurality of different service types, and said service voltage table comprises a voltage, at least one tolerance, and a potential indicator threshold for said plurality of different service types.

35. The process of claim 32, further comprising the step of determining said service type, and receiving data corresponding to said service type from said system current test table, said service angle table, and said service voltage table at a thresholds table.

36. The process of claim 32, further comprising the step of storing a result of a power quality comparison test performed by said meter in a power quality test table.

37. The process of claim 36, wherein said power quality test table further comprises information referencing a measurement record for said result of said power quality comparison test.

38. The process of claim 37, wherein said information is a pointer to said measurement record.

39. The process of claim 36, further comprising the step of referencing threshold information in a thresholds table for use in said power quality comparison test.

40. The process of claim 32, further comprising storing a plurality of comparison tests in a comparison test table.

41. The process of claim 32, further comprising storing a plurality of measurement records in a measurement table.

42. The process of claim 41, further comprising the step of referencing a record in a measurement function table.
59. The process of claim 47, further comprising the step of selecting said at least one function.

60. A meter for metering electrical energy provided to the meter via a service type, comprising:

- a memory that stores a plurality of data in data tables; and
- a processor for performing at least one function responsive to a measurement request and the data in the data tables, generating output information responsive to the measurement request and the data in the data tables, and outputting the output information in accordance with a predetermined priority scheme.

61. The meter of claim 60, wherein the memory is an EEPROM.

62. The meter of claim 60, wherein the measurement request comprises one of a display measurement request, a power quality measurement request, and an external communications request.

63. The meter of claim 62, wherein each of the display measurement request, the power quality measurement request, and the external communications request has an associated priority, the priority of the external communications request being greater than the priority of the display measurement request and the priority of the power quality measurement request.

64. The meter of claim 60, wherein the plurality of data tables comprises a system current test table for testing the system current, a service angle table, a service voltage table, and a phase tolerance table.

65. The meter of claim 64, wherein the system current test table comprises a plurality of system current thresholds for a plurality of different service types.

66. The meter of claim 64, wherein the service angle table comprises phase angle information for a plurality of different service types, and the service voltage table comprises a voltage, at least one tolerance, and a potential indicator threshold for the plurality of different service types.

67. The meter of claim 64, further comprising a service type detector, and a thresholds table for receiving data corresponding to the service type from the system current test table, the service angle table, and the service voltage table.

68. The meter of claim 64, further comprising a power quality test table for storing a result of a power quality comparison test performed by the meter.

69. The meter of claim 68, wherein the power quality test table further comprises information referencing a measurement record for the result of the power quality comparison test.

70. The meter of claim 69, wherein the information is a pointer to the measurement record.

71. The meter of claim 68, wherein the power quality test table further comprises information referencing threshold information in a thresholds table for use in the power quality comparison test.

72. The meter of claim 64, further comprising a comparison test table for storing a plurality of comparison tests.

73. The meter of claim 64, further comprising a measurement table for storing a plurality of measurement records.

74. The meter of claim 73, wherein the measurement table comprises information referencing a record in a measurement function table.

75. The meter of claim 64, further comprising a measurement function table for identifying a digital signal processor (DSP) function to be performed.

76. The meter of claim 75, wherein the measurement function table comprises information referencing a record in a constant table.

77. The meter of claim 76, wherein the record comprises one of an initialization constant and a calibration constant.

78. The meter of claim 75, wherein the measurement function table further comprises information referencing a record in a conversion table which specifies at least one computation to be performed with the DSP function.

79. The meter of claim 60, wherein the function comprises one of display and test selection, display and test parameter adjustment, test definition, and measurement definition.

80. The meter of claim 79, wherein the display and test selection is for inserting a plurality of predetermined byte sequences into a table to display a plurality of predetermined measurement quantities and for enabling the meter to perform a plurality of predetermined power quality tests, each power quality test comprising a predetermined number of steps.

81. The meter of claim 80, further comprising a step counter for counting the predetermined number of steps.

82. The meter of claim 81, wherein an indicator is activated if the step counter exceeds a predetermined threshold.

83. The meter of claim 79, wherein the test parameter adjustment is for changing the number of line cycle pairs over which an electrical measurement is performed.

84. The meter of claim 79, wherein the test parameter adjustment is for modifying voltage, current, power factor, and time thresholds of the tests that are performed.

85. The meter of claim 79, wherein the test definition is for creating at least one power quality test by combining a plurality of test parameter thresholds.

86. The meter of claim 79, wherein the measurement definition is for creating electrical measurements by combining DSP functions.

87. The meter of claim 60, wherein the at least one function is selectable.